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THURSDAY, JUNE 12TH, 2014

RHOOSE
A VILLAGE FOR ALL SEASONS
Feature on Pages 16-18

Llantwit Major
THE VALE'S HIDDEN 'GEM'
Feature on Page 20

**MAKING YOUR HOUSE
A HOME** See Pages 24-27

Riding centre owner to pay £19,000 after court action

THE owner of an Ogmore-by-Sea riding stable has been ordered to pay fines and costs of more than £19,000 at Cardiff Crown Court, writes AJ SICLUNA.

Robert Williams, 57, of Ogmore Road, Ogmore-by-Sea, was said by prosecutor Lee Reynolds to have "demonstrated a blatant disregard for health and safety regulations."

He had admitted three charges of failing to report an accident, and one of failing to comply with health and safety regulations.

The court heard that Williams, who was involved in carrying out charity work, ran Ogmore Farm Riding Centre. Among the riding services were

beach treks at Ogmore.

The local authority, said Mr Reynolds, had provided him with health and safety guidelines.

In March 2012, the Vale of Glamorgan Council were advised by Teresa Bosque that she had suffered an injury that had not been reported.

She confirmed that on a trek, no first aid kit was carried or hi-visibility equipment.

She said that she had been about to canter when a horse in front kicked out.

She fell off, and felt a "pop" in her lower back. She was airlifted to Morriston Hospital and treated for fractured vertebrae.

Mr Reynolds said staff at the centre had been warned they should adhere to certain practices.

In January 2012, Caroline Youde was airlifted to the University Hospital of Wales, with a broken vertebra. While riding, she became confused about who were members of the staff, and who were not.

Again, no first aid kit was available.

A further accident was not reported, said Mr Reynolds. This involved Gareth John breaking a leg at the stable.

In the past, said Mr Reynolds, a customer fell from a horse during a beach trek. This was not reported and the stables were fined £500 with costs of £402.

Dominic Kaye, representing Williams, said: "This was not a total dereliction of duty, and the case involved unintentional breaches of regulations."

How people fell off a horse, he said, was irrelevant. On occasion, staff wore hi-vis tabards and first aid kit had been available.

"These breaches were technical and not wilful or intentional."

He said Williams was a hard-working, upstanding person, who had run his business for 40 years with over 100,000 people using the facilities.

He carried out charity work for prostate cancer sufferers, for leukaemia research and for a local hospital.

He said he never took a day off and produced 100 good character references.

His turnover, he said, was about £70,000 and there was a modest profit of only £1,500 involved.

Recorder Richard Booth QC said there had been "positive mitigation" on Williams' behalf. He fined him a total of £7,000 and ordered him to pay £12,000 costs and a victim surcharge of £100.

CRASH ON THE A48 BY-PASS

A STRETCH of the A48 Cowbridge by-pass was closed last Sunday, June 8, after a motorcyclist suffered serious injuries in a collision with a car.

A spokeswoman for South Wales Police said that a person in the car received minor injuries in the crash, shortly after 12:30pm.

The road was closed while officers investigated the cause of the collision. Witnesses are asked to contact South Wales Police on 101.



ABOVE:
Llanfair pupils
were out to open a
new community
footpath.
**SEE PAGE 3
FOR FULL
STORY!**

Bake a cake for Velindre

TOWN & COUNTRY HOTELS will be holding their "Bake off" competition on Thursday, June 19, at the Bear Hotel, to raise funds, for the Bear Back Riders East coast cycle ride across America in September, which is in aid of Velindre.

Entry is £5 per cake with all funds going to the charity. There are prizes to be won! Register your entry at: townandcountryhotels.co.uk/cake-bake-off-for-velindre.

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Foodbank opens in Llantwit

ON Saturday, May 31, the Vale

Foodbank held its first collection day at Llantwit Major Co-operative store, and the support of so many was hugely encouraging.

Many who contributed to the collection were rightly concerned and dismayed by the necessity of having to have foodbanks in a country which is still one of the wealthiest in Europe.

How that wealth is distributed is another story!

Whether we like it or not, more people than ever are having to access foodbanks as a short time measure to help them out of a crisis situation, over which they have very little control.

The volunteers at the Llantwit Foodbank in Bethel Baptist Church count ourselves privileged to serve local people who are often in desperate need.

However, without your support, that would

not be possible.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your interest, warm heartedness and generosity on our collection day.

Together it's good to know that we are helping to 'fight hidden hunger and restore hope' to those in genuine need in our community.

Thank you for playing your part so caring.

Should you wish to make an 'edible' or monetary donation, we are open on Wednesdays from 1pm-2pm at Bethel Baptist Church there are also collection points at the Catholic Church - Our Lady and St Iltyd in Ham Lane or at St Cadoc's in Cowbridge. Both churches are open all day.

Having experienced your kindness and generosity once, we know that when we hit the precinct again for another collection day in mid-September, we will be able to count on your support!

Ewa Thomas,
On behalf of the
Llantwit Vale
Foodbank Team.

Thanks to GEM for 'retirement coverage'

I WOULD like to thank Tim Chapman of The GEM and John O'Beirne of Vale Press Pictures for the generous coverage of my surprise party.

Many thanks to Carol (from Roy's Toys) and Annette for their secret arrangement of the party.

Best wishes and thank you to all my staff for their hard work, and all my clients, friends and family for their support, loyalty and friendship too over my 20 years in business.

Lynne Nesbitt,
Barry.

Car show was run by Rotary

THE Vale of Glamorgan Classic Car

Show at Sully Sports and Social Club Grounds on Bank Holiday Monday, May 26 was incorrectly described in The GEM last week as the South Wales Auto Club Car Show.

The show was wholly organised and run by the Rotary Club of Dinas Powis. This is the second year of their show.

The South Wales Auto Club had/had no role or responsibility in the planning, organising or running of the show.

Colin Li Jones,
Dinas Powys Rotary Club
GEM NOTE: See page 19 for a report on this event.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and e-mails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Cuts in allowances' claim needs scrutiny

THE cabinet members' letter, 'Facts about councillors' expenses' (The GEM, June 5), contains a sentence which is a little confusing.

The sentence beginning "total allowances paid to councillors ... for the last financial year were £108,773" could be misunderstood, as the second part of the sentence makes it clear that the figure quoted is a reduction in allowances.

The total payment to councillors for 2013/14 was £841,249.80. That was a reduction of £108,773 (11 per cent), so well done the current cabinet - but hang-on a moment...

The Welsh Government Remuneration Board prescribes maximum payments and for 2012/13 they decided to cut allowances by 5 per cent basic and 10 per cent for special responsibility. A decision made well before the current cabinet came into being.

Perhaps that was the more substantial influence for the reduction claimed in the cabinet's letter. It

Supporters should take 'full credit'

I HAD the privilege of attending Barry Town United's annual dinner again last Friday. It was an opportunity to review the ups and downs of the past year.

It is difficult to believe that we were at the same event last year, not knowing whether the club would be in existence or not. Since that time, there was the rejection by the Welsh FA's Council, followed by the legal challenge against their decision; and now, the fantastic celebration of being Welsh League Division 3 Champions.

Full credit must go to the supporters' committee. They have worked tirelessly in the interests of the club and community. They have been professional in their approach and have turned around the fortunes of Barry Town.

Recognition must also go to coach Gavin Chesterfield, his assistants and the players who have stayed loyal to Barry throughout. They could easily have gone elsewhere.

However, I want to use this letter to highlight the need for at least one 3G pitch in Barry. It is difficult to believe that Barry doesn't have one.

Football is a priority to the town and significant grants are available from the Sports Council to help finance the investment. Other local authorities make a profit on their 3G pitches.

What better way to recognise the success of Barry Town United's season and pay tribute to all those leaders of local teams that are engaging young people positively in sport, than providing for 3G pitches, available to all? This should be a local authority priority.

Alun Cairns, Vale MP.

Cat struck by car in Dinas Powys

SADLY, on Monday, June 9 at around midday, I came across a black and white adult cat which had just been hit by a car and killed in Mill Lane, Dinas Powys, near the junction with Elm Grove Road.

I took him to Dinas Vets in Cardiff Road, Dinas, in the hope that he was chipped, and the owner can be told (he wasn't wearing a collar).
Mike Lipscomb,
Barry.

goes on to say 'the major savings ... have come through the increased workload of cabinet members' because they had reduced in number from 10 to seven, but wasn't that a part of the senior management reorganisation advocated by the last cabinet?

Any cabinet member who feels they want to take a reduction in view of the financial austerity measures impacting on their communities will be pleased to know that, individual councillors can forgo all, or part, of their salaries if they so wish.

Dennis Harkus,
FocusBARRY member.

Who controls the planners?

I WOULD like to know who the Vale of Glamorgan Planning Department are accountable to, as I really don't believe they have the interests of the rural Vale communities at heart.

It appears they are able to make unchallenged decisions that will have wide-reaching negative impact for Vale communities, at the continued expense of the Vale taxpayer.

I am particularly amazed at the millions being wasted unnecessarily on road straightening works between Old Mill and Gileston on the B4265.

The Old Mill roadworks are more likely to cause an accident than create any measurable long term benefit. The delays being caused to everyday road-users are unacceptable.

The most mindblowing aspect to

the new highway being built is that it is being done so on a flood plain. We all know the saying 'the wise man built his house upon the hill' - did anyone in Highways ever reason why the original road was set up high on the embankment?

By contrast, other busy routes throughout the Vale remain in a condition akin to those in third world countries. The route through Llancahle to the A48 is a joke (plus an accident waiting to happen).

Surely some money spent safeguarding the existing worn out routes should take priority over non-essential roadworks?

I wonder if it would ever be wise to allow Wales to set its own tax thresholds for the working Welsh, as I am certain unnecessary expenditure will lead to increasing taxes to pay for the incompetence and inconvenience we are made to endure on a daily basis.

Josey Evans,
West Aberthaw.

'Taxes and subsidies need careful thought'

IF your readers were in business providing child care services and their clients suddenly became able to pay up to £2,000 more in fees, what (if anything) would your readers do? Might we end up in the same position as before, but with higher tax, higher charges and higher subsidies?

Does this have any bearing on other government subsidies, housing for example?

Similarly, what would be the effect of the suggested reduction or abolition of stamp duty? If buyers suddenly had funds to pay anything up to four per cent or more for a property, what would they do to get what they want? Would they be any better off overall?

R Bradshaw,
Cowbridge.

Old Legion Club is 'an eyesore'

BUSINESSES and residents of the town are always encouraging visitors to Cowbridge, but I am afraid the sight that welcomes them in the town hall car park does nothing to entice them to return to our beautiful town.

The old British Legion Club, now sadly neglected, is falling down and rotting away year by year. The site has been sold twice and remains an eyesore.

This is a magnet for children and probably

rats as its so close to the river, and with an asbestos roof is obviously a safety hazard.

The Legion Club sadly closed six years ago after serving both the community and Legion members for many years, and it now stands so forlorn and a reminder of the recession.

I would like to see it either knocked down, or at least boards put around it (which has been done with the old chapel site in the Limes) to shield the visitors and residents who use the town hall car park from this very sad sight.

Name and address supplied.

Is 'value for money' claim justified?



LEFT: Redundant wheelie bins in Barry.

THE Barry First Group read with interest, comments from the Vale Council leader that our ubiquitous Vale Council are continuing to give us great value for money. Where?

Where is the evidence of this so called value for money?

We have had an increase in our council tax more than twice the rate of annual inflation and cuts to services which he says we will have to endure on a greater scale than he first thought.

We had a monthly quota of black refuse bags delivered to our doors as regular as clockwork. Now we have to go out to our local retail store to purchase them for ourselves, adding to the

carbon footprint! We have noticed however at one of the former Vale waste recycling depots a huge stack of wheelie bins that have been languishing in the same spot for countless months.

It is estimated that these wheelie bins cost in excess of £35 each yet they have never been used.

Stack upon stack of these bins can be witnessed languishing in sites like the former waste recycling depot at Gladstone Road and possibly other sites around the Vale.

Who paid for these bins that do not seem to have been used in the first place? The Vale of Glamorgan taxpayer. Is this value for money?

Barrie V Evans,
coordinator
Barry First
Group/Barry Voice.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL JUNE 19)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
12 Thur	06.20	9.3	18.47	9.6
13 Fri	07.11	9.8	19.31	9.9
14 Sat	07.56	10.0	20.20	10.2
15 Sun	08.44	9.9	21.08	10.2
16 Mon	09.31	9.8	21.55	10.0
17 Tues	10.17	9.7	22.43	9.7
18 Wed	11.11	9.3	23.29	9.4
19 Thur	11.56	8.9		

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

COWBRIDGE COUPLE CELEBRATE 70 YEARS TOGETHER!

by PHILIP
IRWIN

A LOCAL couple will be celebrating a very special occasion next Tuesday (June 17) – their platinum wedding anniversary (70 years).

Wing Commander Allan Bruce and his wife Jean now live in Cowbridge, and their thoughts will surely turn back to the evening in 1943 when they met at a dance.

At the time, they were both stationed in RAF Aberystwyth. Jean was in the WRAF working as a telephone operator, and Allan was undertaking flying aircrew training.

They married in Goodmayes in 1944



ABOVE: Allan and Jean Bruce today, and in 1944.

and stayed in the RAF for some time, with postings in Germany and Singapore, and also around the UK, including two in RAF St Athan.

When Allan left the RAF, he became the principal of the National Sports Centre for Wales (as it

then was) in Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.

They finally settled in Cowbridge 30 years ago, and have been active members of the community ever since.

Jean taught dressmaking at the Adult Education centre in Old Hall, and enjoyed yoga classes,



walking groups and the U3A.

Allan was a keen golfer and is a former captain of Southerndown Golf Club.

Now that they are in their 90s, they have slowed down a little, but they still enjoy spending time with

their many friends in Cowbridge, and their two daughters, Jennie and Belinda.

Jennie said: "All their friends and family would like to wish them a wonderful day – with many more anniversaries to come".



Diane Normansell, headteacher (behind tree) and Jim Teague (far right) with members of the Llanfair residents' association and Coun Gwyn John..

New community footpath project is completed with a school celebration!

PUPILS from Llanfair Primary School joined representatives of Llanfair Community Council and local residents to celebrate the opening of a new footpath linking St Mary Church and The Herberts.

Since 2012, Llanfair Community Council led the way to secure funding for a permanent footpath link and councillors with members of St Mary Church Residents' Association to see the project come to fruition. Jim Teague of the Community Council said: "It is lovely to see a community led project like this come to fruition. People have already said how much they enjoy using the path. I am absolutely delighted that a permanent, safe and

attractive paved path through woodland now links these communities. It will have a very real impact on the everyday lives of local residents."

Until recently, the only pedestrian route between the two communities involved joining St Athan Road at its junction with the Rocky. This involved a potentially dangerous walk along the road until pedestrians could join the pavement on the opposite side.

As a temporary measure, residents had taken their own initiative and cleared an informal path through woodland alongside the road, but this was far from ideal and in wet weather became quite treacherous.

The project is funded through the Rural Development Plan (RDP) for Wales 2007 – 2013 through the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

The new footpath has been established using a £6,500 grant from Creative Rural Communities, the Vale

Council led rural regeneration partnership, £5,000 of S106 funding and contributions from both the Llanfair Community Council and the St Mary Church Residents Association.

Strong support was also received from the head teacher of Llanfair Primary School, Diane Normansell, whose pupils use the footpath regularly.

Mrs Normansell said: "The children already enjoy using the new path which makes their journey to school a lot safer. We now have a much more secure route up to the church, the Spinney and other parts of the main village which we use to enhance our learning opportunities."

"Pupils will be making bird boxes for installation along the path so that this small stretch of woodland, which is already home to many birds and native flower species, will continue to attract wildlife and become an area that the whole community can enjoy."

Family bikes to the fore on Tour de Peterston!



The race is on.....

PUPILS and parents of Peterston-Super-Ely Church in Wales school got a headstart on the Tour de France, with their annual family bike ride in May.

They took to the lanes, along with a police escort, on a sunny Sunday morning to follow a 15-mile route

which took in several steep hills.

"It's an event we run every year to bring the community together and encourage children to be more active and have fun in the sun. Everyone who took part completed the course and did a great job getting up all the steep hills," said Mrs Lloyd, headteacher.

"We're very grateful to local PCSO for helping us to run the event safely."

Peterston-Super-Ely is an inclusive school offering a stimulating and nurturing learning environment with Christian values. For more information, visit the website www.peterstonprimary.ni or contact Mrs T Lloyd on 01446 760328.

National Trust trip

THERE are seats available on the Vale National Trust Association coach trip to Tyntesfield next Wednesday, June 18, leaving from behind the town hall in Cowbridge at 9 am.

The travel cost is £15 per person, which does not include entry. Entry is free for members of the National Trust.

Please telephone 772325 or email vofgant@gmail.com to book your seat.

JH

Penllyn Bridge Club results

PENLLYN Bridge Club results for May were as follows:

Thursday, May 1 (16 pairs): First, Colin Easterbrook and Viv Roberts, 65.68 per cent; second, Marion and David Stephenson, 62.01; third, Norma Barber and Moyra Cuthill, 60.06.

Thursday, May 8 (20 pairs): First, Marion and David Stephenson, 58.59 per cent; second, John Lord and Joe Ilsley, 56.06; third, Colin and

Judith Nunn, 56.06.

Thursday, May 15 (20 pairs): First, Mary Wallis and Wayne Stephens, 66.67 per cent; second, Joyce Hollway and Ian Dunglein, 65.5; third, Marion and David Stephenson, 61.62.

Thursday, May 29, Robert Brown Cup (18 pairs): First, Barbara Easterbrook and John Raymond, 63.64 per cent; second, Judith and Colin Nunn, 63.35; Third, Cath Domican and John Hunter, 59.38. CN

Llancarfan Society hosts Ruth Watts Challenge

MY letter inviting a reunion of Ruth Watts' cubs of 1948 to sit on her seat on the Llancarfan pétanque (boules) piste brought together about 25 people.

There was much chat about the old days and promises to meet in the future at the piste.

The passing of 60 years was accepted as a lifetime. Now there is a chance to meet again.

On Sunday, June 22, a competition will be held at the piste for the Ruth Watts Challenge Shield, sponsored by Llancarfan Society.

Teams of three will play a round robin and the semi-finalists play a knockout.

Teams wishing to register prior to the day should contact

Russ Watts at russ.watts@bopenworld.com

Team and name gathering at the piste will be at 2pm and play will commence at 2:30pm.

The cost is £1 per head (£3 per team). Length of play will depend on the number of teams in the competition. Feel free

to bring your own refreshments.

All ages are welcome for an afternoon of fun. No experience required; there are no handicaps, only the lack of skill and bad luck. Good fortune favours the brave. Best wishes for a sporting (and hopefully sunny) afternoon.

Phil Watts.

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Rhiannon's World War Two project leads to Hollywood and story of tragedy

by TIM CHAPMAN

A 10-year-old Eagleswell pupil returned home one day to ask her parents about the family's connections to the Second World War and the question uncovered a fascinating story involving the war, the RAF and Hollywood.

Rhiannon Bennington was working on a project set by the primary school last September and wondered whether her parents Danny and Helen knew of any family involvement in

the war.

Danny knew that his mother Jennifer was adopted and began to look into the details of her birth-parents – and along with the help of a researcher Mr David Wade uncovered an amazing story.

Danny said: "My grandfather Sgt Earnest Polden was a serving pilot in 500 Squadron during the war.

"On June 26, 1941, he was given the task of flying two civilian film-makers from 20th Century Fox, Otto Kanturek and Jack Parry in an Avro Anson, so they could shoot an RAF formation for the film 'A Yank in the



RAF starring Tyrone Power.

"The plan was to film two Hurricanes. They took off from RAF Coltishall. My grandfather's Avro Anson took off from RAF Bircham.

"We don't know what the weather was like on the day, but we do know that they took off at around midday and there was a collision at 2,000 feet.

"The Avro Anson went into an 'upside-down flat-spin' and all on board were killed."

Earnest was just 24 years old. A year earlier he had married Edith, who passed away giving birth to Jennifer – Danny's mum – two months after her husband's death.

Jennifer was adopted by family friends. At the time of the crash Mr Kanturek was 44, and Mr Parry believed to be in his early 40s. It is thought the pilot of the Hurricane survived.

On Saturday, June 7, Danny, Helen and Rhiannon met the descendants of the two other victims of the collision at the crash site near Mingay Farm, off Holt Road, Cawston.

Danny said: "My mother, Jennifer sent her regards to everyone who made the meeting."

Chris Kanturek-Lucas, 73, the son of Mr Kanturek, made the journey from Johannesburg with his wife June.

ABOVE: Danny, Rhiannon and Helen with fragments of the Avro Anson that crashed filming a sequence for a Hollywood war film.

The nephew of Mr Parry, Daryl Jago, aged 82, travelled up from Plymouth. He had researched the events surrounding the crash with the assistance of David Wade, and a Lowestoft-based aviation expert Bob Collis.

It was thanks to Mr Wade and Mr Collis's work that the families were put in touch and able to arrange the emotional get-together.

The family members spent a morning at the former RAF Coltishall base and Scottow Cemetery, and paid a visit to the former RAF Bircham Newton base.

They also went to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford to see a restored Avro Anson which had exactly the same colours on the one that fateful day in 1941.

Danny said: "I was able to lay a wreath at RAF Bircham. They were so good to us there."

'A Yank in the RAF' was released by 20th Century Fox and starred two of Hollywood's biggest stars of the 40s Tyrone Power and Betty Grable. It is still shown on TV from time to time.

Big Screen presents Saving Mr Banks

BIG Screen's last film for this season is *Saving Mr Banks* (Cert PG) on Thursday, June 19 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

Author PL Travers – a wonderful portrayal by Emma Thompson – reflects on her childhood after reluctantly meeting with Walt Disney (Tom Hanks), who seeks to adapt her Mary Poppins books for the big screen as a musical which she initially resists.

Doors open 7.10pm. Tickets £4 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door).

Ice creams!



Pictured are some of the visitors crowded around the font (Richard Jones is fourth from the left).

Coach party of visitors on history trail at Bonvilston

RECENTLY, 50 visitors from the Caldicot and District Local History Group came to see the history exhibition at St Mary's Church in Bonvilston.

The party was led by Richard Jones who, in his role as Parish Resources Advisor, Church in Wales, had been involved with St Mary's some years before – to see what could

be done to bring more people into the church.

It was from one of these meetings that thoughts of a history exhibition were first formed.

The visitors were very complimentary about the professionalism of the display and were especially interested in the large 1877 Ordnance Survey floor map of Bonvilston.

With a very full itinerary including the burial chambers

at St Lythans and Tinkinswood, Fommon Castle, St Mary's Church, Barry, Nash Point lighthouse and the Galilee Chapel in Llantwit, it was great that they could find time for a short stop in Bonvilston.

We hope that this could be the beginning of Bonvilston becoming one of the regular destinations for future history tours of the Vale.

PF

Ladies club's next meeting

LLANCARFAN Ladies Tuesday Club's next meeting will feature speaker Mrs Shena Sargeant, who last year judged the club's cookery classes.

She will talk about the finer points and presentation of cooking

and preserving items to be entered in a show – what the judges look for, how points are awarded.

The meeting will be open to men, women and children who wish to enter any shows.

The meeting is on June 17 at 7.45pm in the Llanccarfan Community Hall.

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Language school in line for three awards

WITH just under 90,000 online votes, finalists for the prestigious What's On 4 Junior 2014 Awards have been announced and La Jolie Ronde Languages for Children has been nominated in several categories.

Courses are run in Cowbridge and Barry by teacher Sian Elin Jones, who is known as Madame Sian-El to her pupils!

The International Awards, which are now into their eighth year, recognise the people and companies providing the very best activities for children across the UK and Ireland. The awards are voted for by the parents and carers that take their children to these activities every week.

La Jolie Ronde is a finalist in the following categories: UK Awards, Best National Activity for 5-12 year olds; Best National Pre-school Activity for 2-5 year olds; Irish Awards, Best National Activity for 5-12 year olds.

La Jolie Ronde has been successfully offering language classes to nursery and primary aged children for over 30 years. Teaching includes immersion in French and Spanish from the very beginning, as well as lots of repetition from week to week, the target language is introduced through fun games and activities.

Local La Jolie Ronde teacher, Sian Elin Jones, who teaches French in a number of the Vale's Welsh language schools in Cowbridge and Barry said: "We are absolutely delighted to have been made a finalist in so



ABOVE: Madame Sian-El with pupils at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, Cowbridge

many categories especially as it's the parents and children who have voted for us.

"Learning a new language comes easy to young children, especially those who are already bilingual. It is the ideal time to familiarise them with sounds and patterns of a new language.

"With La Jolie Ronde the emphasis is on 'fun' and my classes are designed to encourage a positive approach to language learning. Emphasis isn't on reading and writing the language but on speaking and repetition through enjoyable games, songs, rhymes and role play. Therefore, the children are much more relaxed and better at imitating sounds and pronunciation."

The winner will be announced on June 20 at an official awards ceremony.

For more information, contact 07929 886271.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is **NANCY DAVIDGE**
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

OBITUARY Mr Anthony Dare, aged 76 years.

TREOES village has lost a much-loved and respected member.

This was evident at the funeral which took place on Tuesday, June 3 at the mid-Glamorgan crematorium, when so many members of the different organizations to which he belonged gave their support to Joyce and their children.

A builder by trade, there are many examples of Tony's workmanship in and around the local villages. Our thoughts are with Joyce and their children at this very unhappy time.

Llangan school

THE flag at Llangan school is flying at half-mast in respect to Mr Hugh Davey, who had been a member of the Board of Governors for many years.

Find us on Facebook:
[facebook.com/GlamorganGEM](https://www.facebook.com/GlamorganGEM)

LOCAL CHOIR ROCKS IN PARIS DISNEYLAND AND NOTRE DAME!

TWO hundred members of the Rock Choir recently headed to Disneyland Paris to add a touch of rock to the theme park!

The singers surprised their fellow ferry passengers with a performance of the iconic track 'Livin' On A Prayer'. Even the captain and the crew joined in.

Once at Disneyland Paris, the singers – made up of choir members from Bridgend, Pontyclun, Cowbridge, Droitwich, Bath, Bristol, Malvern, Stroud, Worcester and Cheltenham – wowed crowds from across the world at the Videopolis Theatre with classic tracks, including 'Something Inside So Strong', 'Ain't No Mountain' and 'You're The Voice'.

Rock Choir leader, Stephanie Bailey, who runs fun, weekly sessions in Bridgend, Cowbridge and Pontyclun, was thrilled with the performances.

"We wanted to give the members an experience they would never forget and their enthusiasm shone through so well in their performances and really helped to get the crowds going. The response from



the audience was amazing!"

Rock Choir members from all over south Wales will be performing in two special shows in support of Ty Hafan at the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff on Saturday, June 14 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets are available on 029 2064 6900 or www.shermancymru.co.uk.

To round off their weekend of performances, the choir gave a performance at the world famous Notre Dame, singing to an audience of Parisians and tourists.

Stephanie is running a summer workshop in Bridgend on Saturday, August 16, where she will be teaching this year's smash hit 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams.

For more information or to book your spot please go to www.rockchoir.com.



Supermarket staff are helping out Macmillan

STAFF at Filco Supermarkets, including Spar Llantwit Major, Plaza Toymaster and RB's have been raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The staff, in stores across south Wales, have raised a brilliant £2,500 so far and will be continuing their support of Macmillan for the next year.

Matthew Hunt, director at Filco Supermarkets, said: "We are pleased and proud to be able to support such a worthwhile and valued organisation as Macmillan Cancer Support. All of us at Filco look forward to working with Macmillan to achieve their goal of raising awareness and money to continue their work."

"We have plans to once again enter a team into the Cardiff Half Marathon."

Rebecca Parke, the Macmillan fundraising manager, said: "We are really pleased that the team at Filco Supermarkets have been raising money and awareness for Macmillan Cancer



ABOVE: Matthew Hunt with Rebecca Parke of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Support within their communities. We are really looking forward to working with all the staff over the coming year."

To find out how Filco Supermarkets are supporting Macmillan Cancer Support this

year, simply pop into your local store. For more information on Macmillan please visit our website macmillan.org.uk or contact our fundraising centre on 0300 1000 200.

COAL TALK

THE Rhose and District History Society presents a talk by John Prior-Morris on 'The Coal-Owning Insoles of Llandaff' on Friday, June 27 at 7.30pm, in the rear hall of Rhose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

Tickets at the door, £1 per adult; 50p per child (under 16).



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World War One memories reveal a family tragedy



Lillian Goss on her wedding day in 1929 to Myrddin Jones.

THE plans being made to mark the centenary of World War One have prompted a Cowbridge woman to revisit her family history – and think again about a family tragedy.

Valerie Ellis' grandmother lived to be 100 – the mark of a survivor.

However, Valerie's grandmother was a member of a family that was devastated by the Great War. Reflecting on what happened prompted Valerie to write the poem that concludes this article.

She told The GEM that the background to the poem is that her Nan lost five brothers in WW1. They were a family with 16 children, 10 boys and six girls, but the loss of those five brothers triggered a bigger heartbreak for the family.

The surviving children never discovered what became of them, and then their grief-stricken mother died young.

The children were told that their father had also died, and that led to the children being split up and sent to 'cottage homes'.

However, the children had been lied to. The truth was that their father had been unable to cope with the loss of five sons, followed by the death of his wife.

He was confined to a mental institution, and it was Valerie's grandmother who discovered the truth.

She said: "Years later, when she was married to my grandfather, who adored her, she saw her dad in the street when he was in his late 80s.

"I am sure there are many more stories of this nature and I visited Ypres many years ago with my son on a football tournament and the memory of the white rows of graves has always stayed with me.

"My aunt has traced the family tree and we have the record of my great grandmother's death from the newspaper of the time.

"I wrote this for my Nan Lilly, whom I listened to for hours telling interesting stories about her life;

With all my love for Lillian Ellen Jones 1905 - 2005 a remarkable woman of her time.

In memory of sons and brothers.

Letter writing every day
Five of them had gone astray,
Lost to us our brothers dear
Mother never gave up hope

Then pain it seemed had
Tolled so much – to carry on.
But what of us so small?
We battled through it all.

But finally it proved too much.
Our mother passed away in pain
Of loss and never knowing
What of them became

Our father couldn't cope you see.
He died they said, so what of we
Were sent away and separated,
Family life was dissipated,

But then I knew he had not died
But sent away they all had lied.
He couldn't cope you see
And had to flee to sanctuary.

*In memory of my wonderful Nan
and all that lost their lives in WW1*



Lillian Goss with two of her sisters, Mary and Jean.

RIGHT:
One of the lost brothers was Sergeant Frank Goss, a bayonet instructor. His body was never found.



Roy is reassured by MP over his Russian medal

ON the day that the Normandy D-Day commemorations were being marked, local MP Alun Cairns visited 90-year-old Roy 'Tiny' Williams to deliver the news that he will be awarded the Ushakov Medal for his services during the Second World War.

Mr Cairns had been approached by Roy Williams following a story that had been run by The GEM in November 2012.

The Vale MP took the matter up directly with the Russian Ambassador, who responded personally, advising that Mr Williams would be invited to a formal presentation over the summer months.

Mr Williams, who lives in Cowbridge, had been awaiting news of the Ushakov Medal, for which he had applied following the Russian Government's decision to award a campaign medal for those service men who had taken part in the Arctic Convoys during the Second World War.

Mr Cairns explained: "Mr Williams had been waiting for his medal since the article was first written. There had been no indication when the Russian Government were planning to present



Alun Cairns with Roy Williams.

veterans with their campaign medal. He had served as a radar mechanic on a fleet carrier which had been used to protect convoys travelling between Scapa Flow, around the top of Norway to Murmansk.

"In light of recent tensions between Western Governments and Russia, Mr Williams was concerned that there may be further delays in the presentation of the medal and he contacted me for help.

"I was very sorry to hear of Mr Williams' situation and immediately contacted the Russian Ambassador in London. The response said that the Russian Government was committed to awarding the medal and arrangements are currently in hand for ceremonies to take place over the summer to award the medal.

"I was delighted to

meet Mr Williams and give him this fantastic news. It gave me an opportunity to hear first-hand of his experiences which were particularly poignant, given that last week we commemorated the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings."

Cowbridge and District (Llanblethian) Bridge

OUR May 6 meeting began with fun and good food as members took part in party bridge.

Winners were: 1st Pauline Lane, 2nd Joan Bird, 3rd Glenda Roberts.

Normality returned for the remainder of the month with the following results:-

May 13: 1st Myrtle Hansard and Mart Wallis 63.13 per cent; 2nd Helen and Mike Ruttle 58.13; 3rd Teri Pollard and Anne Hughes 56.25.

May 21: 1st Helen and Mike Ruttle 60.50; 2nd Brenda Grove and Pam Higgs 60.00; 3rd Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear 57.50.

May 27: 1st Mary Thomas and Dennis Barker 66.25; 2nd Glenda Roberts and Sara Bartlett 59.47; 3rd Pat and Brian Swain 57.08.

An evacuee's happy relocation to south Wales

THE June meeting at Ystradowen WI took place on Wednesday, June 4. President Jan opened the meeting.

She advised members that Rose Ives had finally been admitted to hospital for her long awaited surgery.

Also Averill has been very unwell but has now returned home. Sadly Thelma Jones's husband had recently passed away. Not a very happy start to the evening.

However things improved when Jan introduced our speaker Rowland Potter who entertained us with his talk 'Life as an Evacuee'.

Roland's family lived in London where his father ran a busy chemist shop.

When war broke out, children were issued papers and sent off to the safer areas in the country complete with the name of their school and the number and, of course, a gas mask. Roland was sent to Sussex.

The WI provided the children with a meagre meal "no second helpings" and then Roland was driven by a naval commander to his allocated home.

It was a very poor area. He was not at all happy. He hated the son of the family but loved their little girl aged seven and bought her a book of poems.

She cried when he was re-evacuated to south Wales. His home in Wales was a very different matter. It was in Garnant, a village in Carmarthenshire not far from the Glamorganshire border.

His host was a wonderful lady called Mrs Lewis who greeted him with a kiss and a hug. Again, the home was poor with no electric lighting and a privy in the garden.

He was always treated as her own son and his time in Wales was a very happy time.

In his own words, he fell in love with Wales. The kitchen boasted a huge range, the like of which he had never seen

in London.

Mrs Lewis asked if he liked Carmarthenshire bacon. He had never heard of it but happily agreed that he did and out came the frying pan and the kitchen soon gave off the wonderful aroma of bacon frying.

He was also asked what his religion was. He really didn't know (he much preferred cricket) but quickly answered Christian.

The Lewis family were Baptists. He was taught by a Glaswegian teacher at the local school and soon made many good friends.

He drew our attention to the vast differences between his life in London and this new life in Garnant.

It was a mining area and on his first day he heard the stamp of men's boots coming down the hill.

He thought it was soldiers but when he peeped out the window he saw it was the colliers returning from work. Mrs Lewis's husband Walter was among them. Garnant boasted a cinema and he loved to go there, especially if it was a cowboy film.

At New Year he joined the local children to go around the houses singing – often in Welsh. They were given 6d plus an orange. By 11 o'clock they had collected the huge sum of 11s 6d.

How exciting was that! He recalled seeing his first Welsh funeral and remembered how every house closed their blinds as a token of respect for the departed.

Garnant also boasted a village hall with a dance floor and he enjoyed many happy evenings there. After the war, he returned to his own family in London but always kept in touch with the wonderful Mrs Lewis, who visited them in London.

Roland was a very entertaining speaker and his talk included many amusing anecdotes. He concluded that he

enjoyed talking for three quarters of an hour but would have preferred to carry on for an hour and a half. We would have enjoyed listening too. Irena gave a vote of thanks on behalf of us all.

After our usual tea break, Jan chaired the business for June.

Barbara read the minutes for the last meeting and for the AM. These were approved.

Jan thanked the members who had organised the supper which we enjoyed after the AM and also Moira, who did an excellent presentation on the WI resolution for 2014.

Ystradowen members will be entering five classes at the Glamorgan show.

This will be held at North Cornelly Community Centre on July 26.

Gaynor Thompson reminded us that our September meeting is 'Women, the backbone of the War'. She urged members to dress accordingly and took names of those who would like a cross-over 'pinny'.

These will be purchased at Carmarthen market when the Rendezvous Club visit in July.

Jan reminded us there will be no speaker and members are encouraged to talk about their own personal memories of World War Two. Val Owen had sent a letter of thanks for the good wishes sent during her recent illness.

Chris Kelly reported that 18 members wish to go to Cheltenham in August. It was agreed to book a smaller bus and restrict it to Ystradowen members.

The Walk will take place on June 18 and coffee at Barbara Richard's home on June 25. The July meeting will be held on July 2.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

EL

Teenager's work experience with MP



Alun Cairns MP with Nils Langlois.

FOURTEEN-year-old Nils Langlois from Treos recently completed a week's work experience in the local MP's constituency office in Barry.

The Vale MP said that he was extremely impressed with Nils, who reminded him of William Hague who addressed the Conservative Party conference at the same age.

Alun Cairns and his team have welcomed a number of students over the last few years to gain experience in the Barry constituency and Westminster offices.

GR

Cowbridge RFC hold end of season presentation



ABOVE: Rhod Walker receives the award for player of the year and LEFT: Receives the award for supporters' player of the year.

COWBRIDGE RFC held its end of season awards recently.

The presentations were made by Simon Easterby, director of coaching at Llanelli Scarlets.

The winners were: player of the year Alex Jones, improved player of the year Rhod Walker, players' player of the year Connor Boys, player clubman of the year David Griffiths, and supporters' player of the year Rhod Walker.

AG



ABOVE: (From left) Alex Jones, David Griffiths and Connor Boys

GOLF DAY A SUCCESS



LEFT: The winners of the golf day show off their prizes!

Armed Forces Day

ON Monday, June 23, RAF personnel from MoD St Athan will parade through Barry to mark the beginning of Armed Forces Week and to commemorate 75 years of the Royal Air Force in south Wales.

The parade will begin at 10.30am from Kings Square and proceed through the town to the Civic Offices, Holton Road, where they will take the salute.

The newly-appointed Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, COUN Howard Hamilton, will join representatives from MoD St Athan, including Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Robert Balls, for a short ceremony at which the Armed Forces Day flag will be raised.

The RAF based at St Athan have a long association with Barry and were granted the freedom of the town in May 1959 and more recently, they were made Honorary Freemen of the Vale of Glamorgan in 1974. Vale residents are being encouraged to line the street to show their support.

LLANTWIT MAJOR AFC's golf day was held at the Vale Resort recently.

Results: individual - Andrew Shaw; team winners Steve Caffrey, Elliot Stokes and Sean Hills.

An excellent day with 18 teams taking part; thanks to our golf day sponsors Watts & Morgan, and support

from our hole sponsors Kings Head, Watts Truck & Van Ltd, Plough Markets, Green Renewable Wales, Nonsense accountancy, Rio boutique, Andy Cars, Anthony Brown. Eurgent Ecspress, Richie John, The Swan and A&G auto repairs.

DJ

Local solicitors help raise £2m in Will Aid scheme

LOCAL solicitors who donated time and skills free during the national Will Aid campaign helped raise £2 million for worthy causes.

They encouraged local people to take advantage of the charity will-making scheme to get a professional will drawn up, and invited them to make a donation to the nine Will Aid charities instead of paying them a fee.

Nationwide, the scheme has raised over £2million with 23,000 people making their will. The charities are: ActionAid, Age UK, British Red

Cross, Christian Aid, NSPCC, Save the Children, Sightsavers, SCIAF (Scotland) and Trocaire (NI).

Local solicitors who took part included:

DP Law Ltd (£1,250); Anthony & Jarvie £855; RLE Law, £1,215 (all Bridgend); Sinclairslaw £135; Watkins & Gunn £1,565 (both Cardiff); Vale Solicitors, Llantwit Major £156; and Castle Law, Cowbridge, £595.

The Will Aid scheme will run again in November. For more information, visit www.willaid.org.uk or phone 0300 0300 013.



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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT Queen's speech shows the way forward

LAST week the Queen delivered her last speech before the 2015 General Election.

Its focus was to secure the recovery and continue the long term economic plan. Locally, the claimant count of unemployment has fallen to 4 per cent and at long last, tax cuts are starting to feed through.

The long term plan can give residents in Barry and across the Vale some peace of mind for the future.

From knocking on doors throughout Barry and the rural Vale, it seems that although residents are pleased unemployment has fallen locally, it is obvious people want and expect further progress. I couldn't agree more.

Low interest rates impact pensioners and savers. This is why I am pleased that the Queen's speech responds to this. If you've worked hard and saved for your pension, you should be free to decide what to do with your money.

Steps are being taken for people to take complete control over how they access their personal pension.

Those who want a regular income will still be able to purchase one; those who want greater control of their finances in the short term can take a greater amount as a lump sum; those who don't want either an



**Vale MP
Alun Cairns
reports to
GEM readers**

working families with their childcare costs – with tax-free support of up to £2,000 a year for each child – will help both with the cost of living and assist people to go back to work.

This, coupled with the increase in personal tax allowance to £10,500, will have a major impact. This is cutting income tax for over 25 million people in the UK and 38,000 here in the Vale. A total of 452 have been taken out of tax altogether locally. The freeze in fuel duty will continue for the rest of this Parliament.

This speech also sees the end of 'zero hours' contracts where they prevent workers taking jobs elsewhere. In addition to policies to protect workers, the Government has raised the maximum fine to £20,000 per employee for employers who pay less than the minimum wage – if anyone is in this position, please let me know.

As one of the Prime Minister's Small Business Ambassadors I was pleased to see policies introduced to make it easier for small businesses to start, grow and employ more people.

There is still a long way to go but this Queen's speech shows the Government's determination to stick to its plan to secure a better and brighter future for us all in Barry and the Vale and beyond.

Four generations of Barry ladies remember Great War!

TO celebrate the UN designated World Environment Day on June 5, four generations of Barry women planted trees on one of Barry's gateways which will also create a living memorial to the 700 men and women from Barry who perished in the First World War.

Sally Alley (69), Jane Alley (48), Jessie (28) and Ella McCadden (four) planted trees along Port Road East organised by the White Farm Conservation Group and supported by the Woodland Trust and Keep Wales Tidy.

The chairman of the



group, Coun Rob Curtis who also represents the area said: "I would like to thank all the volunteers and local people for the help and support they have given to this living memorial to our First World War fallen."

"The opportunity to plant saplings has now passed but we have

managed to plant around 550 trees and are hoping to plant the rest in the autumn. So please keep

a watch in the GEM for our next planting sessions in late September and October."

GP 'Out-of-hours' change for Vale

THE number for contacting out-of-hours doctors' services in the Vale of Glamorgan has changed.

From now on the telephone number for the Vale GP Out-of-Hours (OOH) service will be 01446 729562.

The GP OOH service provides help to those who feel they need to see a GP urgently but can't wait until normal surgery hours.

Danielle Davies, the operational manager for the Communication Hub at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board,

said: "The change has been made to make the service in the Vale more resilient."

"Most patients currently contact the GP OOH service by phoning their local surgery but there will be those who will have made a note of the number and ring direct to the service."

"It is those people we are keen to make aware of the change."

Mrs Davies said that the old number would continue to be diverted to the OOH service for some time but it was important people started using the new contact details straight away.

PACT meetings

BARUC PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry, June 12 at 6.30pm.

CORNERSWELL PACT, Hebron Church, Cogan, June 12 at 6pm.

LLANDOW/EWENNY, public invited to meet PCSO Carys Griffiths at Sigginstone Community Hall on June 17 at 10.30am.

SULLY PACT, Cricket Pavilion, Sully, June 18 at 6.30pm.

DYFAN PACT,

Highlight Park Community Centre, Stirling Road, Barry, June 22 at 7pm.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT, Residents' Board Office, Coychurch Rise, Barry, June 24 at 10.30am.

Coffee and Chat, Fox and Hounds public house, Llanearfan, June 26 at 11am.

ILLTYD PACT, Sir Samuel Romilly public house, Broad Street, Barry, July 2 at 3pm.



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COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SPORTS ROUND-UP

Young cricketers shine at festival!



The girls' cricket year 7 and 8 teams.

THE Year 7 & 8 girls cricket team competed in the South Wales Cricket Festival held at Radyr Cricket club on Monday, June 2.

Unfortunately the weather was not particularly cricket friendly; however the girls' spirits weren't dampened and they put in some superb performances. There were 12 teams in the festival and the competition was split into three pools of four teams.

We were drawn up against Cardiff High School B Team, Pencoed and St. Clare's. Each game was seven overs long. Cowbridge achieved the following wins to qualify for the

semi-final - vs Cardiff High B - won 27-23; vs Pencoed - won 101-61; vs St Clare's - won 51-50.

We then faced Cardiff High in the semi-final and an outstanding team performance, with notable individual batting performances from Ffion McNamee and Freya Johnson, saw us clinch the win in the final over, 69-61.

The girls then faced a very strong Glantaf team in the final who had also won all of their games. It was a nailbiting final with Glantaf batting first and achieving 70 runs.

Cowbridge were in next with Mali Howell and Ffion McNamee again putting in excellent innings, feeding many 4s and 6s to closely follow Glantaf.

Again it all came

down to the final over and Glantaf were just able to hold on for a 70-60 win. A shame for the Cowbridge girls, but with a number of outstanding county players in the Glantaf team, it's fair to say that the best team won. Congratulations to all the girls that took part.

Team: Ffion McNamee, Freya Johnson, Meriel Clode, Emily Jenkins, Mali Howell, Abi Johnson, Aimee Jones, Ella Jones, Beth Edwards, India Maurice.

FOOTBALL

The Year 8 football team played Bro Morgannwg Comprehensive School on May 7, in the final of the Cardiff and Vale Cup.

The teams met last year in the semi-final of the cup, with Bro

Morgannwg winning 5-4 in penalties; therefore, Cowbridge were out for revenge.

The game started with both teams passing the ball around, trying to establish themselves into the game. With the strong wind in Cowbridge's face in the first half, it was always going to be a struggle to get territory in the opponents' half.

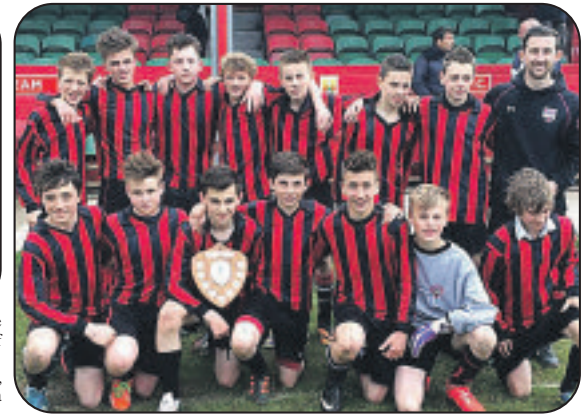
For the first 20 minutes the game was very nip and tuck, with both teams struggling to break down the defence and get a genuine chance on goal. Cowbridge got off the mark first, with a well-taken goal by Sam Green.

Cowbridge were starting to play some nice football, even against the wind they were stringing together neat one-tuos,

and becoming more dangerous as the half went on.

Late in the first half, Bro Morgannwg had a one on one chance, which was expertly saved by Hari Hartmann. The first half drew to a close with Cowbridge in the lead. They were looking forward to the second half with the wind in their sails.

Bro Morgannwg came out of the blocks well after the restart. They were creating a number of scoring opportunities, but could not put the ball



ABOVE: The year 8 football team.

into the back of the net.

Cowbridge then regained their composure, and struck again to make the score 2-0. After a few minutes of continuous pressure, Cowbridge broke into the area and were awarded a penalty. Cameron Gauci stepped up to the mark, and placed the ball into the back of the net.

The next goal came from a run down the left flank, where George Cuddihy cut back inside and smashed the ball into the back of the net for the goal of the match.

Captain Logan Roach finished the game off with a superb header, and the game was over - 4-0 to Cowbridge!

Well done Year 8! You have not lost in 90 minutes for the last two years, and have been extremely unlucky not to pick up another cup. You were all outstanding - the champions of the Cardiff and Vale Schools are now Cowbridge!

Player of the match: everyone!

Well done Year 8! You have not lost in 90 minutes for the last two years, and have been extremely unlucky not to pick up another cup. You were all outstanding - the champions of the Cardiff and Vale Schools are now Cowbridge!

Player of the match: everyone!

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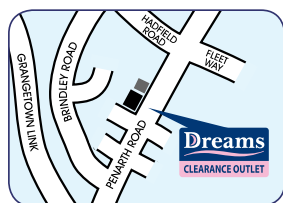
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BRAVE CLARE FULFILS A DREAM FOR CHARITY

Bone cancer survivor reaches the heights on Pen y Fan

IN October 2011, Clare Revere planned to walk up Pen y Fan to celebrate her birthday, despite the fact she had a sore hip.

But excruciating pain cut her climb short and just weeks later she was diagnosed with chondrosarcoma – a rare but serious form of bone cancer.

After two years of gruelling chemotherapy and surgery, the 49-year-old from Ogmere by Sea decided she was now ready to climb Pen y Fan to raise vital funds and awareness for Bone Cancer Research Trust (BCRT).

She was joined by a 47-strong team of family and friends on Monday, May 26, and said she will never forget reaching the 886m summit after three hours.

"It was an extremely emotional moment. Two years before, just after my surgery my leg was literally dangling from my hip and I struggled to take even one step forward.

"I truly never thought I would be able to stand at the top of a mountain I had actually climbed myself."

Clare, who usually walks with a crutch, said the climb and descent were challenging but helped by

the support and encouragement of her fellow climbers.

"The whole day was brilliant and I had a variety of arms to cling onto when the going was particularly steep.

"One moving moment was when a climber stopped me to ask if I was the lady everyone was talking about at the bottom and gave me a £5 donation. He told me he had a broken neck and back the year before which left him in danger of losing his legs, yet he was training to climb Snowdon in the summer – what an inspiration!" she said.

The walk had originally been planned two days previously – but had to be put on hold once again due to extreme weather conditions.

But they didn't let torrential rain stop play and organised a special consolation walk on Saturday, May 24 so that everyone could take part.

She said: "This turned out to be a fabulous day with about 40 local team members joining us for an extremely wet walk which ended in a local cider festival – great fun!

"One brave walker, Keith Burgess, climbed Pen y Fan on his own in appalling conditions – he got to the top but couldn't see a thing!"

Clare said they originally hoped to raise £2,000 for BCRT but thanks to everyone's generous donations, they are on track for £4,000 to help improve outcomes for those affected by primary bone cancer.

"I'm now here on two legs to tell the tale and after having a new titanium pelvis, hip and thigh bone I have worked hard over two years to improve my mobility and fitness."

"I really want to fundraise for research to improve outcomes not just for me but many others like me who I have met along the way – some who are sadly not here anymore," Clare said.

BCRT is a charity dedicated to improving outcomes for people affected by primary bone cancer through research, awareness, information and support.

There has been no improvement in primary bone cancer survival rates for over 25 years and BCRT is fighting to improve early diagnosis and referrals.

To find out more, visit www.bcr.org.uk or call 0113 258 5934.

If you would like to sponsor Clare, visit: <http://www.justgiving.com/penyfanpersonalchallenge>



ABOVE: Clare Revere climbs Pen y Fan.

Adventurer Maria puts Britain first on polar map!



Maria is congratulated by Prime Minister David Cameron at Westminster shortly after her return from Antarctica.

VALE adventurer Maria Leijerstam's world first achievement for Britain has landed her in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Maria, 35, who writes a column for The GEM, pedalled 650 kilometres across the icy wilderness of Antarctica last Christmas, the first person in the world to cycle to the South Pole from the edge of the continent. She completed it ahead of an

American and Spanish rival last December.

Conceptualised by Maria and her team, a unique polar cycle was then designed and manufactured by Cornish firm Inspired Cycle Engineering and since her success their sales have rocketed.

In the same week, the University of Plymouth where Maria gained a pure mathematics degree in 2000, has awarded her honorary sporting colours for distinction in sporting activities, which she will be collecting in September.

Maria began her career as a rocket scientist and later as a business improvement director for multinational organisations around the world.

In 2010, she founded Multisport Limited and the popular Burn Series of family adventure days as a way of combining her love of sport and adventure with business acumen.

In 2007, she became the first Welsh woman to complete the world-renowned Sahara Marathon, where she battled against extreme high temperatures to run six marathons in seven days.

At the other end of the temperature scale, in 2012 she became the first woman to complete the Siberian Black Ice Race cycling across Lake Baikal, the longest and deepest frozen freshwater lake in the world.

Maria continues to work every day to raise money for her chosen charity the Alzheimer's Society. She shares her story of determination through lectures and talks.

MP welcomes Centrica move

THE Vale MP Alun Cairns has welcomed the news that Centrica Energy will retain its interests in Barry Power Station.

Centrica recently announced restructuring to focus on smaller, more flexible stations. This means that Barry Power Station based on Hayes Road will stay in the ownership of Centrica, he said.

Mr Cairns added: "I am pleased that the outcome of these considerations back the local workforce. I am aware that over recent years questions existed over the plant and was delighted when the local station won the peak demand contract."

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Clare's Book Reviews

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is steamed up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, BCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Pat West recognised as Dinas 'Volunteer of the Year'

RIGHT: Diana Hodgeson, John Fanshaw, Betti Digby, Pat West (Volunteer of the Year), Chris Franks (standing) and Cynthia Greenslade.



ON one of the best days of the year so far, Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern held its annual volunteers' garden party.

The weather was glorious for the many volunteers of the charity to meet and discuss the many ways in which the charity can assist the community.

Coun John Fanshaw, chair of trustees, welcomed all to the happy event. He said that it was appropriate that the party was held in 'Volunteer Week' and he thanked all who contributed to the work of the charity.

The 'Volunteer of the Year' was Pat West who worked tirelessly for DPVC

in so many roles. She was presented with a certificate by Coun Fanshaw.

The hostess for the day was Joan Andrews who had kindly made available her beautiful garden and guests enjoyed fine refreshments supplied by willing 'assistants'.

The next public event is the strawberry tea to be held in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, July 16 at 2pm.

Coun Fanshaw said: "One of our aims is to assist residents to stay in their own homes and be active members of society."

For further details contact the organiser, at Murchfield Hall, Sunnycroft Lane. 02920 513700 or via email: dpvc@btinternet.com.

From stage manager to a Vale ministry!

A FORMER stage manager, Rev Jon Ormrod, will be licensed as priest-in-charge of the parishes of Sully and Wenvoe with St Lythans on June 10, by Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne, at St John the Baptist, Sully, at 7.30pm.



Rev Jon Ormrod at St Bleddian's, St Lythans.

Rev Ormrod, who is moving from Llantrisant, where he has been the assistant curate for the last three years, takes over from Canon Edward Dowding, who retired last year.

"Rev Andrew James will be licensed as associate priest of these parishes and in a reciprocal cluster arrangement, Jon will also be licensed as associate priest in Andrew's parish of St Andrews Major with Michaelston-Le-Pit," a spokeswoman explained.

Rev Ormrod (50), originally from Neath, worked as a stage manager for many years, including at the National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company.

Before training for ordination, he was head verger at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford, where Shakespeare is buried. He is married to

Sheonagh and has two daughters, aged 21 and 23.

"I've been a churchgoer throughout my life, from my childhood days in Neath and by the time my vicar in Stratford asked if I had ever thought about ordained ministry, my reply was that I'd been thinking about it for 20 years!" he said.

That conversation led to him going for selection and training and, finally, a return to Wales as assistant curate in Llantrisant. I've had a fantastic time in Llantrisant, it was a wonderful place to start my ordained ministry and I particularly enjoyed working with the vicar, Viv Parkinson.

"One of the things that we established was a film club, where we would get together and

watch all different types of films, from *Groundhog Day* to *High Noon* and then discuss faith in connection to the film that we had just watched.

"I'm very excited about getting to know people in my new parishes and helping them to get to know others in neighbouring parishes, especially within the new cluster.

"There are already some joint services being held but we may be able to develop this and possibly hold some joint social events."

Rev Ormrod will be responsible for St Mary's, Wenvoe, St John's, Sully and St Bleddian's, St Lythans. In his spare time he enjoys the theatre, film, music and is a keen rugby fan, especially the Ospreys.

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U3A pay a visit to House of Commons

DESPITE a two-hour delay in setting out from Barry, when a replacement coach had to be found after a breakdown, 35 members of Barry U3A eventually arrived at the Houses of Parliament to be greeted by Vale MP Alun Cairns and his PA, Katherine Pearce.

A spokesman said: "Due to the very late arrival, it was not possible for the group to have the full guided tour but, thanks to the good offices of Alun and Katherine, a guide was able to give a shortened version.

"A quick snack followed and

afterwards a visit to sit in the strangers' gallery and witness part of a debate.

"Most people would have liked to spend longer watching our MPs at work but time pressed and it was back on the coach to travel home, stopping on the way at Kingston St Michael, where the 'The Jolly Huntsman' served an excellent dinner.

"Thanks go to APEC coaches of Cowbridge who, having been informed of the problem at 4am, stepped in with a coach to save the day and ensure that the group were not disappointed."

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Sara's Chelsea creation takes a top prize



ABOVE and BELOW: The floral collar that won Sara a place in the final.

ABOVE: Sara Lewis is presented with the Chelsea Flower Show silver medal.

ABOVE: The willow frame (right) and the finished article (left) on show in Chelsea.

AN assistant at a Cowbridge florists has had a stunning success after entering her first national competition.

What's more, Sara Lewis decided to start at the top – the recent Chelsea Flower Show – where she took the silver medal in the 'fantasy floral gown to be worn to a crystal theme ball' category.

Sara, who lives in Ogmore-by-Sea, works part-time in the Bay Tree, High Street, and spends two days a week at Afan Neath Port Talbot College, where she trains to develop her floral arrangement skills.

Entering a top competition such as the Chelsea Flower Show certainly put those skills to the test.

She had to prepare a complex arrangement for a regional final in Bristol to even get the chance to be there!

Sara explained: "The south west and Wales heat was in Bristol, and at that I had to design and prepare a 'collar to be worn at a Woodland

by PHILIP IRWIN

Trust dinner dance'.

This brief, as the photographs show, was a complex one, and Sara solved the problem by using bark to hold the collar in place. She dried the bark and moulded it into shape, and then worked her magic with the floral arrangement.

It was good enough to win, and she was on her way to Chelsea – where things suddenly got a whole lot tougher!

The elegance and simplicity of her silver medal-winning creation rather masks all the effort behind the facade.

In fact, Sara had to take a course in willow weaving to enable her to put together her design.

The willow weaving enabled her to create the classical narrow-waisted ball gown shape – but there was a great deal of work still to do.

Before she could put a single flower in place, she had to attach hundreds of test tubes to the frame, so that they could be filled with water to keep the flowers fresh!

Sara explained: "I had

to finish it late at night, and early the following morning it had to be at the Chelsea Flower Show.

"The judges came along to make their choice about 10.30am, and then it had to remain on show for the rest of the week".

When the show was over, Sara brought the floral gown back to Cowbridge where it was given pride of place in the Bay Tree window – earning many admiring comments.

Sara's test tubes did their job, because the

display was still looking good almost a fortnight after its creation.

The owner of the Bay Tree, Mr Bryan Bird, said that he was very proud of Sara for doing so well at her first attempt.

The experience has given Sara a taste for competition, so she is considering entering further competitions.

Otherwise, she plans to continue as before, working at the Bay Tree and attending college two days a week to develop her skills.

After all, having taken a silver medal, it will be a huge temptation to have a crack at the gold!

'Only 49 GPs offer evening surgeries'

ONLY 49 GP practices in Wales offer appointments in the evening and the Welsh Government has no idea how many open on weekends, according to information obtained by Welsh Conservatives.

Their leader, Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central) put a written question in Assembly: "Will the Minister confirm the number of GP surgeries across Wales that currently offer weekend appointments?"

The Minister for Health and Social Care Mark Drakeford said: "GP access statistics, which are published annually, do not include the number of GP surgeries that offer weekend appointments."

Mr Davies then asked: "Will the Minister confirm the number of GP surgeries across Wales that currently offer appointments after 6.30pm?"

Mr Drakeford revealed: "Published GP access statistics for 2013 indicate that 49 practices in Wales offer appointments after 6.30pm."

Afterwards Mr Davies commented: "Labour stood on a pledge to make GP access easier – and so far their commitment has spectacularly failed. "That they have no idea how many surgeries are even opening at the weekend beggars belief."

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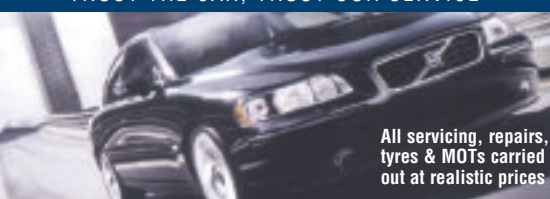
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Out and About with The GEM

Welsh tales of magic and mystery

WELSH sorcery, magic and mystery collide in classic tale by Barry author David Lawrence.

The Adventures of Tassel the Elf has 56 eye-catching illustrations and a map by Rhiannon Thomas.

The Adventures of Tassel the Elf, published by Incantus Media, is available from Cowbridge Bookshop, Nickleby's Bookstore, Llantwit Major, and online <http://shop.incantusmedia.com>.

Diabetes group's Llandough meeting
VALE of Glamorgan Diabetes UK Voluntary Group's next meeting is on Tuesday, June 17 at the Board Room, Llandough Hospital, Penarth, from 7.30pm - 9pm.

The speaker is Mr James Pearson on the subject: 'From Basic Lab Science to Clinic: an Update on Current Diabetes Research'.

Games day at Senior Health Shop
AGE Connect Cardiff and Vale is starting a Thursday morning games activity at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

A wide range of board games will be available to use free including cards, cribbage, chess, draughts, Scrabble, to name but a few.

The first session will be held on Thursday, 18 June, 9.30am to 12 midday.

Why not come along and give it a whirl over a cup of tea/coffee? It is also an ideal way of making new friends!

What's on and where?

Contact 01446 732385 for further information or just come along and have a fun morning.

Charity tea and chat

THE Friends of Marie Curie Cancer Care, with Boverton WI, are holding an afternoon tea and chat at Llantion Hall on Thursday, June 19 from 2pm - 4pm.

Entrance is £3.50.

Sully art show

SULLY Painting Group will hold its annual art exhibition over three days: Friday, June 20 (6pm - 9pm); June 21 (10am - 8pm) and June 22 (10am - 4pm).

There will be over 250 paintings on display, an art themed tabletop sale, raffle and refreshments, including home-made cakes for sale; 20 per cent of the price of all pictures sold, plus income from refreshments, raffle and sale of catalogues (£1 each)

go to support Ty Hafan and The Teenage Cancer Trust.

Over the last 24 years donations have exceeded £20,000.

Horticultural society hosts 'Saving our Trees' lecture

OWEN THURGATE works for Natural Resources Wales as the Tree Health Operations Manager.

He will give an illustrated talk to the Llantwit Major Horticultural Society on Wednesday, June 25 at 7.30pm in the Llantion Hall, Llantwit Major. The access road is beside the library and rugby club.

He is responsible for tree health surveys and regulation across Wales and will describe the existing pest and disease in the trees and woodlands of Wales, and explain how he and his team are making sure they are prepared as they can be for any new outbreaks, and also how you, the public may help prevent diseases spreading.

All are welcome, and admission is free.

BARRY GROUP PERFORMS IN TOWN CENTRE



LAST Saturday (June 7), rain was forecast but that didn't stop a group of performers from Superstars in the Making, taking

centre spot at King Square, Barry.

The group performed an extract from their upcoming performance of *Hairspray* at Memo Arts Centre, this August. There was also a performance from Jessica Rose Thomas, who will be playing Ariel in *The Little Mermaid Jr* this July. The crowds also

enjoyed a performance from the very talented Jodi Bird, who sang 'Let it Go' from *Frozen*. Jodi was recently in the live semi-finals of *Britain's Got Talent* and she will also be appearing in *Hairspray* having trained at *Superstars in the Making* Barry for three years.

Ty Hafan lottery draw

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D830.

● £2,000: 888965.
● The rollover, which now stands at £1,500 was not won this week.

● £10: 655852, 371596, 739690, 231166, 893884, 208734, 117284, 552444, 237661, 613002, 737159, 406314, 550000, 215979, 886833, 559878, 646255, 279188, 754844, 39367.

● £5: 259181, 153331, 468426, 751138, 683862, 806214, 770253, 266460, 450996, 574067, 252960, 805076, 197820, 767991, 862565, 149019, 850630, 768312, 605550, 219398, 973536, 596539, 349794, 715508, 285720, 379492, 292903, 512355, 704910, 906474, 694489, 457450, 753357, 808047, 428632, 836690, 492659, 305924, 809500, 833395, 892891, 809526, 970731, 211196, 560013, 273394, 826403, 690005, 361935, 155507, 318916, 477765, 844225, 413510, 449773, 404924, 195488, 463240, 563174, 634849.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.
For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Summer school teaches life skills

THE idea for a Martial Arts Summer Camp was created by 30-year-old 'RESOLVE it' development director, Eira Culverwell.

She said: "Children leave school knowing lots about all sorts of things that they will probably never use, but nobody is teaching them the fundamental skill of self defence which could one day save their lives.

"What we teach at 'RESOLVE it' gives young people the

confidence to stand up to bullies and the know-how to steer clear of violence and approach life with their eyes wide open."

The Martial Arts Summer Camp aims to be fun, challenging and to give young people skills that will help them form healthy relationships and lead happy fulfilled lives.

RESOLVE it also offers courses that are tailored to businesses, schools, colleges and community groups. Look out for the RESOLVE it Academy which will be opening on Saturday mornings in Howell's School, Llandaff this Autumn.

Are you looking for something FUN, SAFE, EXCITING, UNIQUE and EMPOWERING for your children this summer?

RESOLVE it Martial Arts Camp is a great way for your child to try an array of Martial Arts along with focusing on daily themes relating to personal safety. Children from ages 10-14 will spend 5 days at Cardiff Arts Academy, Fairwater, Cardiff, sampling & developing Martial Arts & Self Defence skills from highly experienced & skilled Martial Arts Instructors.

What is RESOLVE it? We are a Welsh Company providing training in self defence and personal safety. Our urban survival tool kit helps young people to stay safe in today's environment.

For more information or to book, contact us on: Email: sheleagh@resolveitcic.co.uk

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22 Jump Street aims a knowing wink at the curse of the sequel!

A REMAKE of an 1980s TV series, directed by a duo known for animation, starring a chubby comedy actor and a muscular action hero – the auspices for 21 Jump Street weren't overly promising, but the film itself was a triumph.

Directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller showed no little style, Jonah Hill turned into an unlikely action comedy star, and Channing Tatum displayed a hitherto unseen funny bone. Unsurprisingly, a second serving of Jump Street action was ordered, and now reaches cinema screens

in 22 Jump Street.

This time around Jenko (Channing Tatum) and Schmidt (Jonah Hill) are sent undercover at a local college to bust a drugs ring; but when Jenko meets a kindred spirit on the football team, and Schmidt infiltrates the bohemian art major scene, they begin to question their partnership...

When 21 Jump Street was released, there were more than a few dissenting voices wondering how making a film from a slightly ropey TV show would work on the big screen. This querying of its validity even made it into the film itself, with plenty of the jokes aimed at the resurrection of this old 'mission', and just how much people would buy



by
GARETH JAMIESON
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into it.

This 'meta film' (using the film's production within the storyline) technique continues aplenty in 22 Jump Street, a film which is, in my memory, perhaps the most knowing sequel committed to film. But as many films have found out (most notably Ocean's 12), there is a thin line between being meta and just being smug; fortunately it's a line that 22 Jump Street stays on the right side of.

Most importantly, it's a film that more than raises a laugh when not winking at itself, although there are some moments that feel a little stretched out or forced. Certainly it moves in the ballpark that many of these films (the likes of Superbad, Knocked Up, etc) play in, but there is also a nice level of spectacle, the film having the action chops as well as the funny bone.

Directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller have already hit paydirt once this year, having helmed The LEGO

Movie, and this shows no sign of halting their hot streak. Directing with a verve and style, the film looks tremendous, and whether it's staging a shoot-out or car chase, or paying tribute to one of Britain's finest comedians in a 'blink and miss it' easter egg, there is little let-up in pace or quality.

Lord and Miller manage to not only deliver a visually impressive blockbuster, but also to subvert the notion of the blockbuster.

It's a theme that has legs and runs, whether it's questioning how much looking the new mission has, lampooning the fact that plot-wise the film is more or less copying itself and wondering (yet again) whether people will really buy into two thirtysomethings pretending to be college students.

The script is certainly very clever, sometimes trying a little too hard, but the notion and the aim makes for a refreshing change, even if the carbon copy plot does feel too flimsy second time round.

Both Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum have seen their profiles rise since the last outing. Hill picking up another Oscar nomination and Tatum flexing some action star clout, but both are on fine form here.

The film goes as far as to mock them, Hill for becoming a 'serious' actor, while Tatum's ability for improvisation is questioned, knowing gags that manage to hit home, while their performances also deliver the goods, ably supported by the likes of Ice Cube and Nick Offerman, among others.

In a summer stuffed full of sequels, 22 Jump Street manages to offer up something exciting, intriguing and well executed; its knowing winks land, the gag rate is pretty good and the action is stylishly done. As for 23 Jump Street? Well just make sure you stay through the credits...

VERDICT – A film not afraid to mock itself, and lampoon the sensibilities of sequels, 22 Jump Street is a bigger beast this time round, and while the plot doesn't add much, its knowing tone and comedic intelligence, coupled with a big budget blockbuster feel, means that the film is well worth watching. Recommended. SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: 21 Jump Street (2012), Superbad (2008).

Many faces of Howard Marks

KENFIG HILL-born Howard Marks brings his one-man show, Scholar, Smuggler, Prisoner, Scribe, to Barry Arts Festival on July 3.

Marks attended Oxford University where he earned a degree in nuclear physics and post-graduate qualifications in philosophy.

Described by the Daily Mail as "the most sophisticated drugs baron of all time", he was arrested in 1988 by the American Drug Enforcement Agency and sentenced to 25 years in Indiana.

He was released on parole in 1995, after serving seven years, and in 1996 released his autobiography, Mr. Nice, which became an



Howard Marks

international best seller.

At Barry Island Sports and Social Club, he will look back at four extraordinary, action-packed phases of his life, covering his time as an academic and his nascent interest in marijuana, to incarceration in Terre Haute, one of the United States' toughest penitentiaries.



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RHOOSE... a charming village

Rhoose... A village for all seasons

RHOOSE is a village with businesses dedicated to serving the community all year round but when summer arrives it is time to showcase its outdoor

attractions.

Located on the coast at the most southerly point in Wales the warmer months herald its famed 'micro-climate' which attracts tourists, coastal walkers and day trippers many of whom enjoy the facilities of Fontygary

Leisure Park.

The views from the park are majestic, taking in the Bristol Channel and Exmoor National Park in the distance.

For families who want to enjoy a day at the coast, the park, with its state-of-the-art facilities, including a 25-metre heated pool, can provide a perfect day's relaxation and enjoyment.

The manager, Jennie Flanigan, explained that a lot of local people – and those from further afield in Barry and Cardiff – don't realise that the park welcomes the public and they don't have to be members.

She said: "Families can come down for the day, with the parents enjoying a drink or ice-cream and the spectacular views, while the children play in one of the three play parks, or have a game of football or rounders on the field."

"The pool in the leisure complex is very popular and we have access to the beach which is lifeguarded. Children enjoy exploring the

rockpools.

"There are lovely walks all the way from the park to Rhoose Point and in the other direction, too."

"For something to eat or drink, there's the Lite Bite cafe, the fish and chip bar, and the Indian restaurant opens at 6pm."

The leisure and fitness facilities at the park include a cardiovascular room complete with rowers, bikes and cross trainers, a weights room, a jacuzzi, a sauna, and the pool, which is open seven days a week, has fun equipment like slides for the children.

Rhoose is a popular stop-off for hikers making their way along the Heritage Coast.

Glenys Watson of Coffee Time located in the centre of the village not only serves local people, she welcomes groups of walkers who enjoy eating outside the shop on sunnier days.



ABOVE: The social club plays an important role in the local community.

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RHOOSE ... a charming village

BUSINESSES DETERMINED TO PROVIDE THE VERY BEST SERVICE AVAILABLE

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for your cats!

RHOOSE is spoilt when it comes to great pubs and restaurants – and there are few better things in life than relaxing at a country pub on a summer's day.

No wonder the local pubs attract people from as far afield as the valleys and Cardiff.

The Ocean Lounge, The Six Bells, The Fontygary Inn and The Highwayman continue to thrive because they offer such good value for money, combined with a friendly service.

The Highwayman's owner Derek Gaynor explained: "Some pubs may be closing but this is our busiest year so far – in fact we're 40 per cent up! We've just introduced a new summer menu with a few twists on what we've traditionally done.



"My partner Wayne Morgan does a fantastic job with the cooking – people simply love the menus.

"The food is freshly cooked and the dishes are home-made under Wayne's supervision."

Derek and Wayne are also replicating their success at their restaurant the Caeffatri Bar and Grill in Bridgend with The Highwayman's celebrated lunch menu and popular over-60s menu.

Hair and beauty

Rhoose also happens to be an oasis for hair and beauty treatments with a number of salons and hairdressers that serve people not just from the village, but from across the Vale.

Barbuzz Hair and Beauty Salon at Fontygary Leisure Park, Sublime Hair and Beauty and Deano's Barber's Shop have all developed excellent reputations.

Activities

One of the perennial



Barratts Fine Meats is the butcher's store in the centre of the village...

complaints of some smaller communities is the lack of activities for young people – not so in Rhoose!

There are popular Brownie packs, the Guides and Scouts, junior lifeguards, an amateur boxing club, a children's play centre, ballet sessions and a youth centre open for those aged 11 and upwards on Monday and Wednesday nights.

Continuing the young people's theme there is also *Passport to Play* which offers quality care for those aged six weeks old to seven years old.

Adults are catered for too in terms of activities with zumba dancing, a slimming group, a Derby and Joan Club, the WI, bingo, a Friday Club, the bowls' club and tennis courts.

Inn's friendly welcome

KERRY and Kevin Eade are now in their eighth year running the Fontygary Inn, a friendly family-run family pub and restaurant.

They are enthusiastic, and continually looking to improve the food and facilities to meet the popular demand of their regular clients and visitors to the area.

Regular entertainment nights and the introduction of new dishes and menus with more home-cooked meals than ever are just some of the improvements that the locals are enjoying.

An enclosed children's play area and sunny beer garden makes this a family friendly pub for all.



ABOVE: The Fontygary Inn has an outdoor area that is popular during the summer months.

Extend yourself the gentle way!

EXTEND in the Vale, sponsored by Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale, is running an Extend class (www.extend.org.uk) at Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose every Thursday (11am-12pm), with time for refreshments after.

This is a gentle movement to music class that is suitable for older people or less able people of any

age. Each class includes at least 20 minutes seated exercise.

In fact, all routines can be adapted to be done seated or standing – so therefore is suitable for all. Wheelchair users are most welcome as the hall does have disabled facilities.

Contact Shirley, Extend teacher on 01446751077 for more details, or email shirleyadc@aol.co.uk or see www.classfinder.org.uk for additional Extend classes run by Shirley in the area.

Fontygary

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RHOOSE... a charming village

'RHOOSE IS A SPECIAL VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY'

RHOOSE is a great place to live being close to the sea with access to the coastal path and a great deal of open space for leisure activities.

I have the honour of serving as a governor at Rhose Primary School which has an excellent reputation in the midst of our friendly, close community.

The area is well served by the Fontygary Leisure Park which includes an indoor swimming pool. Close by there is an excellent Indian Restaurant and the very popular Fontygary Inn Public house which also provides great dining facilities and live entertainment.

Further East, Rhose Social Club is an extremely popular meeting place. Adjacent to the airport Cambrian Flying Club is managed by welcoming

by **LOCAL COUNCILLOR PHIL CLARKE**

staff against a backdrop of aviation in a friendly atmosphere providing a great variety of first class cuisine.

The Highwayman is not far away and serves good food and puts on events and live entertainment.

The village's sporting provision includes an excellent football and cricket facility as well as a skate park. Currently enquiries are being made to upgrade this facility. Rhose Boxing Club provides great training facilities run by Michael Smyth.

The introduction of Ryanair to Cardiff Airport is heartening, but is only operating a weekly service from October. I hope as much effort as possible is

made to encourage this 'low cost carrier' to expand its route network from the airport.

Last Autumn following an assurance from the Vale Council I wrote in The GEM that construction work was due to start in December 2013 on the cycleway through Porthkerry Park connecting Rhose to Barry.

As this work has not progressed, I have asked questions on many occasions of the council and landowner and learned that there have been legal technicalities which have delayed the start of the construction.

However, I have been assured that these matters are being resolved and that the funding is still available in spite of the demise of SWTA (South Wales Transport Alliance). I hope work starts on this sooner rather than later.



LEFT: Glenys Watson's homemade food at Coffee Time in the centre of Rhose is popular with local people and tourists alike who enjoy eating outside in the warm weather.

PET FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

RHOOSE is a pet-loving area – that must be why there are so many top quality businesses to help people with their 'pet needs'.

Blue Ridge Dog Training provides all the support dog owners need to establish a happy life with their pet. They are even able to tackle issues such as chewing or aggression.

'One on one' home visits and the regular training classes are very popular.

A spokesman said: "Our team are constantly assessed by our principal dog psychologist, ensuring that all activities are safe, relevant and scheduled as part of the individual

owner and dog tailored programme. "So rest assured you and your dog are always working and learning in a safe and happy environment with all your needs catered for."

For more information go to: www.blueridgeacademy.co.uk/Blue_Ridge_Canine_Academy/About_us.html

The Aderyn Cat Resort is a state of the art cattery that has just opened in Nurston.

It is a safe and hygienic environment, and people are even able to view their cats while on holiday via webcam!

For more information, go to www.aderyncatresort.co.uk; or call 01446 71346

Posh Pawz celebrates second anniversary

ONE company celebrating its second anniversary is popular salon Posh Pawz run by Kathryn Johnson and Jo Greenough.

Jo explained: "The salon has seen another great year of pampering the pooches from across the Vale."

"We're lucky to have lovely clients who have supported us, and we have built up the business on a reputation for providing high quality grooming at reasonable prices."

Kathryn added: "The salon also stocks a wide range of toys, treats, and pet products including flea and worming treatments."

"Throughout the summer months the salon is offering 'bath days' twice a week for those clients who may not be ready for a full groom but just want their dog to have a freshen up."

To book an appointment, either call in, or phone Kathryn or Jo on 01446 710044.



ABOVE: Kath and Jo of Posh Pawz Salon and Spa are celebrating their second anniversary this month.



ABOVE: Another delighted client!

Cardiff and Vale Hospice thanks local volunteers



PICTURED: Gareth Williams (left) Chair of the Wales Advisory Board, presents Graham Jones with a 15-year long service award.

A 'BLOOMING Great Tea Party' at the Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth, celebrated National Volunteers' Week (June 1-7).

Over 50 fundraising and hospice volunteers joined members of staff in the gardens of the hospice, joined by television presenter and journalist Mariclaire Carey-Jones and star of BBC's Apprentice, Alex Mills.

The volunteers were treated to cakes and sandwiches made by kitchen staff. A sparkling drinks reception which had been generously donated, was served by Neil, Emily and Ryan from the Barons Court

Toby Carvery. Music was provided free by Glenda Clwyd, world-renowned harpist.

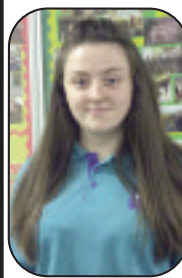
Hospice patron Lorraine Barrett and Chair of the Wales Advisory Board Gareth Williams, joined Mariclaire and Alex in presenting some of the volunteers with long service awards.

Graham Jones, who volunteers on reception, was awarded his 15-year badge and got to cut the beautiful homemade Marie Curie cake.

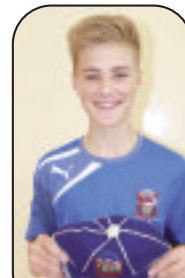
Thank you to Amanda Gronow for her two fabulous cakes that she kindly made for us.

HM

News from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg



Manon Ogwen-Parry.



Joseff Williams.

Urdd eisteddfod

CONGRATULATIONS to Jodi Bird on taking the first prize in the musical theatre competition and to Manon Ogwen-Parry who came third in the solo section at the Urdd national eisteddfod held in Bala recently.

Well done to them both on their success and to everyone else from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg who competed.

Britain's Got Talent

JODI BIRD also reached the live semi-finals of Britain's Got Talent during half term. Jodi was in the final three after the public vote but unfortunately lost out on a place in the final following the judges' vote.

Football cap

CONGRATULATIONS to Joseff Williams on receiving his Cardiff and Vale Schools FA cap; he has represented them for the past three years.

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Buffets - menus now available.

Vale of Glamorgan Classic Car Show is a huge success

ON Monday, May 26, the Rotary Club of Dinas Powis organised the Vale of Glamorgan Classic Car Show at Sully Sports and Social Club Playing Fields.

It followed the first very successful event in 2013 where the beneficiaries were the Motor Neurone Disease Association and other local and national charities.

On a sunny day with beautiful views of the Bristol Channel, there were a record number of cars and motorcycles entered, with well over 250 registrations and many others arriving on the day.

The Rotary Club was delighted to have the new Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Howard Hamilton and the Mayoress Carol Hamilton open the show, along with BBC Radio Wales personality Roy Noble, who gave a welcome speech and introduced the Mayor.

The president of the Rotary Club of Dinas Powis, Rev Tony Stevens, said: "We are most grateful to the Mayor and Mayoress and

to Mr Roy Noble for giving up so much of their time from their busy schedules to support the show. It was a great pleasure to have them with us."

All profits of this year's show will go to the nominated charity Noah's Ark Appeal and to other charities supported by the Rotary Club of Dinas Powis. (Roy Noble is also a vice president and Patron of the Noah's Ark appeal.)

President Tony also passes on grateful thanks of the Rotary Club of Dinas Powis to the Sully Sports and Social Club for all their help and assistance, to the many classic car clubs and individuals who exhibited their cars, the many stallholders who took part and, of course, not forgetting the tremendous attendance of members of the public, all contributing to a wonderful day in the sun!

Next year's Vale of Glamorgan Classic Car Show is on Bank Holiday Monday, May 25.

GEM NOTE: See page 2 letter relating to this event.



President Tony Stevens and winning owner Andrew Reed of Penarth.



ABOVE: First, blue Jaguar E type; second, red TR; third, white Calthorpe.

CLJ

SOS for more First Responders

THE Welsh Ambulance Service is appealing to the public to 'make a difference' - by becoming a volunteer.

More than 3,000 volunteers already work alongside frontline ambulance staff to provide high quality healthcare and services to the people of Wales - and the Trust is on a mission to recruit more.

To celebrate 30 years of Volunteers' Week, the Trust hopes to enlist the support of more community First Responders and ambulance car service drivers.

Community First Responders give up their spare time to attend appropriate 999 calls and give first hand emergency care to people in their own community.

They are trained by the Welsh Ambulance Service to administer basic first aid, oxygen therapy, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of a defibrillator.

Volunteer Jan Gordon had only recently qualified as a first responder in the Garw Valley, Bridgend, when her husband Patrick suffered an unfortunate accident with a chainsaw and injured his hand.

Using her new skills and dressings from her kit, Jan managed to stem the bleeding and drive her husband to hospital for stitches.



Could you help make a life saving difference?

"It was quite traumatic, but I did what I had to do," she said.

The Ambulance Car Service is part of the Trust's Patient Care Service, and includes a team of dedicated drivers who use their own cars and give their time freely to transport patients to hospitals and clinics across Wales.

First responders in Barry are preparing to celebrate 10 years since their inception.

"We're looking for people whose lives we have helped to save during those ten years to come forward to be part of our celebrations," said co-ordinator Bryan Foley, whose team has attended more than 5,000 calls to date.

Call Bryan on 07896137093 or email vale-responders-wales@ntlworld.com to share your experience.

Eryl Surgery and Branch Surgeries in St Athan and Rhoose

Please note: the practice will be available for emergencies only on Monday June 30 and Tuesday July 1, 2014 as a new computer system is being installed during this period.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to access your medical records during this period and therefore we will not be able to view results, book appointments or generate prescriptions.

Please submit your Repeat Prescriptions by June 25, to ensure you have sufficient medication to avoid June 30/July 1.

We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

AM goes by bus on tour

VALE council officers were joined by the local AM, Jane Hutt, on a bus trip around the county, to monitor the Greenlinks community transport service.

The Assembly Minister for finance travelled through Gileston, St Athan, and Rhoose, while the 12-seat wheelchair accessible bus picked up and dropped off passengers.

She spoke to passengers and later reported: "Since its launch in January, the new flexible Greenlinks community transport scheme has proved a success."

"I have received positive feedback about the bus service from constituents in the rural Vale. This is a professional, accessible and friendly community service and I would encourage more people to pick up the phone to book their seats."

On the day of her trip, the 'on demand' service was taking shoppers back to Gileston and St Athan, then picking up

residents from St Athan and Rhoose who were taking a trip to Rhoose Community Club and to a local care home.

The Minister was told that Greenlinks buses are driven largely by volunteers, who dedicate

one day a week to help out in the community.

The service would welcome new volunteers.

Find out more at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/greenlinks or call 0800 294 1113.

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Our GEM Facebook winner for June 5, 2014 is:

Barbara Entwistle

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM. The answer was:

Stephanie Owen

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

Our lucky winner has chosen to spend their prize with...

Tiffin Rasoi

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

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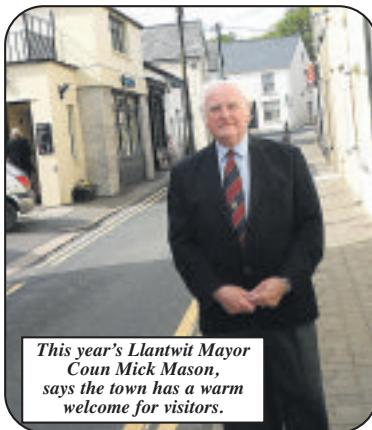
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Llantwit Major

Visit The Vale's 'Hidden Gem' this Summer

Town Mayor says summer fayre is a chance to see Llantwit at its best



This year's Llantwit Mayor Coun Mick Mason, says the town has a warm welcome for visitors.

ONCE again, it is the time of year when Llantwit Major sets out its stall and invites visitors to come along and enjoy all that the town has to offer.

Especially keen to extoll the virtues of the town is its new Mayor, Coun Mick Mason – who is celebrating his 40th year living in the town.

For Coun Mason, the Llantwit Major Summer Fayre, a big community event that will take place on Saturday, June 21, is a symbol of a new spirit of teamwork and co-operation in the town – with everyone coming together to show the town in its best light.

He said: "When I first came to live in Llantwit 40 years ago, I had no idea how much I would come to love being here.

"Even now, when I am walking around, I still see things I have never noticed before – and that is part of the charm of living here.

"We are just a short distance from a spectacular coastline, and I think the beach is a really great place for a family to spend day."

The feeling that Llantwit Major is just a few steps away from the countryside is something that Coun Mason thinks is really special.

by PHILIP IRWIN

The old town is, after all, so picturesque and peaceful that you could easily imagine that you are in a small village.

The town square, with three pubs around it, is a favourite place for the mayor, because of the quiet, relaxed daytime atmosphere.

He said: "From Llantwit, I can take just a short walk and find myself watching chickens and other farm animals in a yard, and if I just walk a little further, I am right out in the country."

He is excited about other developments in the town. He explained: "We now have a town events group, and that is bringing real community spirit back to the town."

Certainly, for many years, the town organised a Victorian Fair every two years.

Now things are changing, because the events committee decided that the year between Victorian Fairs should be devoted to a revival of the traditional summer fayre.

Two years ago, despite being put on in a rush, it was a great success. This year (June 21) the Llantwit and Cowbridge Lions have come forward, supported by the events committee, and the day is going to be bigger and better!

The welcome spin-off is that last year's Victorian Fair benefited from the new blood

getting involved in events, and it was better than ever.

On Saturday, June 21, a highlight of the summer fayre will be a carnival procession, starting at 11am through the town prior to all the fun at the town rugby club.

Once the procession has finished, the activities will start at the rugby club. The fayre will include a stage, stalls run by local organisations and a 'Have a Go' area.

The 'Have a Go' area will be for people who want to have a go at a new sport such as rugby, football, soft tennis, archery, or air rifle shooting.

There will be plenty of entertainment on the day, including the Tricky Tykes Terrier Racing Team, the Aberthyn Tractor Boys, a golf competition, a tug o'war trial of strength and cake-making contests.

There is a full programme of music on the stage during the day (see article on facing page).

Coun Mason says that there are other examples of the town being on the move – in an upward direction.

There is a good mix of shops, restaurants and cafes in the town, and especially pleasing is that a number of new shops have moved in over the last few years – it's always encouraging when business people back their judgement by investing in the town.

Another boost for the town is that the Galilee Chapel project, which has transformed a ruined offshoot of St



ABOVE: The view from upstairs in the Galilee Chapel, looking out over St Illud's Church grounds.

Illud's Church into an educational centre which showcases the church's historic Celtic crosses, is now complete.

The church has always been a wonderfully distinctive feature in the town. It's full of character with its own micro-climate.

Where else will you find a church with palm trees growing in the cemetery?

The Galilee Chapel is very much the icing on the cake!

So, Coun Mason, on behalf of all Llantwit residents and traders, is offering a warm welcome to the town.

He arrived in 1974, posted to St Athan by the RAF – as so many residents have been – and has stayed because of its many attractions.

For people in the Vale and beyond, this summer is a very good time to find out more about Llantwit Major and what it has to offer.

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Llantwit Major Town Council
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There's music for everyone at the summer fayre

THIS year's Lions Summer Fayre at the Llantwit Major Rugby Club field on Saturday, June 21, promises music for the whole family.

There will be live music on the stage from 10.40am until 5pm.

All acts are confirmed and include Ysgol Dewi Sant and Eagleswell Primary School choirs, who are on at 10.40am and 11.15am respectively. Dewi Sant will be singing a selection of Welsh songs while Eagleswell will be singing songs from Disney films.

At 11.40am Rock Choir Cowbridge, having just returned from singing in Paris, are delighted to perform at this local event.

The electric guitars are out at 12.55pm with Stiph Richard, a local rock band fresh from finishing their GCSE exams. They will be singing covers of Green Day, Nena, plus some of their own compositions.

At 1.35pm, youth theatre group Stage Door 1 will be performing songs from the musicals. Stage Door 1 has been entertaining the community for the last seven years and is currently working towards their October

production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

The Wednesday Warblers are on at 2.15pm – they are a local choir that was borne out of the need to replace physical exercise with a hobby that would relieve stress and be fun.

The aim is to sing upbeat, current songs that help improve your mood. The group meet every week and some have said it helps combat the feeling of social isolation and loneliness that is part of today's modern age.

They believe the choir create "harmony through harmony".

At 2.55pm, Autumn Sounds Entertainment will be singing a medley of war time songs from the 40s and are all mature singers, with some in their seventies or older.

And last but not least, at 4.15pm The Crickettes are an all female semi-professional instrumental band influenced by The Shadows. They have toured Britain, Germany and France.

All performers are part of the local community and can be contacted if you'd like to join them or have them perform at future events.

AJ

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (telephone: 01656 725219)

Ringo enjoys a chance to Beatle around!

RINGO is a German Shepherd/Akita cross who is nine years old, but no-one has told him that – he is still a very lively boy!

He has spent a lot of time alone before coming to us, so keeps to himself when he meets new people, but is very loving once he knows you.

He is lots of fun to be around, and gets on well with other dogs – he would ideally enjoy living with another dog. He is a bit of an escape artist, so a secure garden is a must.

He still enjoys plenty of exercise, and will need someone to work on his recall with positive reward-based training.

And as with all dogs rehomed from us, Dogs Trust will be on hand with free training and behavioural advice.

If you can offer Ringo a home, please call us on 01656 725219 or pop in to Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG. We are open 12pm-4pm every day except Monday, with late night opening until 7.30pm every Wednesday for the summer months.

We are also currently taking donations for our fun day and dog show on Sunday, June 22 at Margam Park. If you have any unwanted gift sets, or some indelible tins/biscuits/bottles you can spare, please pop them in to the centre for use in our tombola, and help us raise 'Pounds for Hounds'!

Linda Feagan,
Supporter Relations Officer, Bridgend



Live a life of adventure... WITH MARIA LEIJERSTAM

Double world record holder Maria Leijerstam from the Vale of Glamorgan, founder of the Burn Series of multisport events and qualified personal trainer, will inspire you with a weekly column on simple family sporting adventures in the beautiful countryside of south Wales. Maria will guide you on how and where in your area you can combine sport and fitness into family fun.



Life is one big learning curve and we need to be open to learning because learning means improvement and in turn, this will make our challenges so much more enjoyable.

I always make a point of doing something unfamiliar or something that makes me feel nervous because I know it's going to make me a better person because I will learn from it.

Humans are creatures of habit and so this doesn't come naturally to most people but the reward of having conquered something you were initially nervous or apprehensive about can eventually become a really enjoyable habit.

With that in mind, the challenge this week is to do just that.

Find something you think "I'll never be able to do that" (within reasonable limitations of course), find a friend to join you and then set the goal.

It might be to try a new sport, climb a small mountain or apply for a

new job for example. Set yourself the challenge and let us know how you got on, log onto www.burnseries.co.uk/youradventure for full details.

I've been to Margam Park this week planning the orienteering course for the upcoming Mini Burn event on the June 28. If you are planning to take part then it's worth brushing up on your orienteering skills as the bogs are plentiful at Margam Park and just trying to find your way around these is going to be fun. Maybe this could be the challenge you are looking for?

Make sure you join me next week for more adventures.

FOOTNOTE

This column is provided for idea purposes only. Always check with your doctor if you have concerns about your health, prior to embarking on any form of physical activity and let someone know where you are going.

Have you heard of Glympse? It's a brilliant free app that shares your location with anyone you want for a specified period of time.

The GEM and Multisport Ltd are not responsible or liable, directly, indirectly or consequentially, for any form of damages whatsoever resulting from the use (or misuse) of information contained in or implied by the column.

Food safety experts are on the road

THE Vale Council's environmental health department will take a roadshow across the area during Food Safety Week between June 16 and 22.

The roadshow will look at hand washing techniques, promotion of the Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Act, general food safety advice, and queries from members of the public.

As part of the roadshow, they will visit local primary schools, where they will be demonstrating correct hand washing techniques, and carrying

out other food hygiene related activities.

The roadshow can be found at different locations from Monday to Thursday, starting at Tesco, Penarth, then King Square, Barry, Waitrose car park, Cowbridge, and then at Filco car park, Llantwit Major, between 9am and 12.30pm. On Friday, the roadshow can be found at Morrison's car park, Barry, between 1pm and 4pm.

For more information about the roadshow contact the environmental health department on 01446 709105, or visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/foodsafetyweek.

Charity event for two good causes

A LADIES night in aid of two good causes is to place place in Llantwit Major on July 19.

The organiser, Paula Ainsworth-Bibey, said that the two charities to benefit would be SANDS, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, and Birmingham Children's Hospital.

She told The GEM that the two charities were close to her heart.

Entertainment at the ladies night, which is at Llantwit Major Rugby Club, includes a drag queen and strippers, with a buffet and raffle.

Skate group
GLAMORGAN Artistic Roller Skating Club is now taking on new members.

The club skate at Colcot Sports Centre on Tuesday nights, 6pm to 8pm and teach basic skills and artistic roller skating moves.

All the coaches have been CRB checked and are on hand to help and advise, whether you just want to boost your fitness or reach competition standard.

If interested, contact club secretary Anne Marie Escott on 07517854453.

Invite to Abbeyfield's summer fete

ABBEYFIELD'S summer fete is on Saturday, June 14, from 2pm.

The fete, which is part of Abbeyfield Open Doors Week will be at Abbeyfield House, Ty Dan Evans, 43, St Nicholas Road, Barry.

There will be stalls, refreshments and a raffle. Donations to Abbeyfield, a registered charity, would be welcome.

Anna Marshall, the house manager, explained: "The Abbeyfield 'Open Doors' week is an opportunity for us to spread the word and help people understand what we do.

"These events are run across the UK to get as many people as we can involved in making life better for older people.

"Abbeyfield still have two Rowan Court residents, Mrs Elizabeth Curtis and Mrs Ann Watkins with us while repairs to their homes are ongoing after the storm damage in February.

"Both are taking a keen interest in the fete and also spreading the word about Abbeyfield

to friends and family. "Mrs Watkins is also part of Barry Hookers Craft Group who are having a coffee morning on Thursday, June 12 at 10.30am at the above address in association with Abbeyfield to promote both organisations. The group meet every Wednesday at Coffee Cove on Barry Island between 10am and 12pm, new members welcome.

Eisteddfod in Treorchy

IN 2012, the Treorchy eisteddfod was revived in Rhondda Cynon Taf and the following year, it attracted over 200 entries and had to be held over two days.

Competitors for both the vocal and instrumental categories have travelled from as far away as Barry, Penarth, Gloucester and Merthyr Tydfil.

This year's competition is to be held

DYFFRYN DECIDES TO DAZZLE WITH DAHLIAS

D Y F F R Y N Gardens is recreating the 1914 dahlia trials this summer, and visitors will be able to experience the sights and smells of a garden bursting with 1,000 dahlias.

The year 2014 marks 100 years since Reginald Cory, the man who created the gardens,

cultivated and grew over 7,000 different cultivars of dahlias.

The gardeners at Dyffryn are celebrating the centenary by filling every border, bed and pot with 1,000 dahlia plants.

A spokeswoman said: "This year will be by far the most dramatic recreation that the Dyffryn gardeners have attempted. Re-enacting the dahlia trials has been a year-long project from planning and designing

to researching and finding the oldest cultivars, sadly some of which no longer exist.

"The dahlias are being planted now and will start to look fabulous from early August right

through to the end of September.

"With so many different colours and types, the dahlia is an incredibly versatile flower. They will look very dramatic by late summer; it's definitely worth coming to have a look," said Alex Luker, head gardener at Dyffryn Gardens.

Alex will also be giving a free talk on 'Cory's plants at Dyffryn' this evening, (June 12) at 7pm for any garden enthusiasts. Please call 02920 590813 to book a place.

The gardens are open seven days a week from 10am until 6pm until the end of September.

Town council's cemetery apology

BARRY Town Council says it would like to apologise for any distress that may be caused by the appearance of some of the sections at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, Barry. Unfortunately, this is due to the recent weather conditions which have been conducive to the grass growing.

A spokesman said: "We would like to advise visitors that we are currently making arrangements to resolve this problem and would ask for the public's patience and understanding in this matter."

Runners aim to end 'human trafficking'

'IN The Long Run' aims to end human trafficking thanks to the commitment and sweat of long distance runners and the generosity of those who give their time and money to support them.

To raise awareness of human trafficking and financial support for the work of 'Oasis', four Welsh runners will join an international team to run 1,000km in relay from the capital of Bulgaria, Sofia, through Macedonia and Albania.

They then catch a ferry to Italy and continue the run from Bari to Naples and then to Rome, finishing at the Coliseum.

The run starts on July 12, and they aim to be in Rome by July 20.

The four Welsh volunteer runners are Emma and Melisa Gooding (from Cowbridge), Tom Cronin and Aled Power (from Cardiff).

To help Wales make a difference to this international campaign, visit the website <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=MelisaGooding> or go to In the Long Run website: www.itlr.org/give.

STRIKE ACTION

South Wales Fire Service is urging people to be 'extra vigilant' with safety following the Fire Brigades Union's announcement that firefighters in Wales will take further strike action.

The action is scheduled for today, Thursday, June 12, from 9am until 9am the next day; and on Saturday, June 21, from 10am to 5pm.

How a harsher Britain is making life tough for man's best friend!

OUR first dog, Jacob Woodie Sausage Williamson-Sarll (try shouting that out on the Common) could say sausages.

The most adorable, toffee-coloured creature, with floppy ears and black 'eye liner', he was a Labrador-German Shepherd cross, rescued by us as a puppy from the Dogs Trust, which was then the NCDL, on Tondur Road in Bridgend.

Like all committed, loving dog owners, we thought Jakie was incredibly special, and as well as his verbal prowess (well, it SOUNDED like sausages to us), he always knew exactly when my husband would arrive home, loved to be hoovered with the attachment (done gently, promise) and had a passion for trying to bite bees.

Our first 'baby', we had him before our two daughters came along, and when he died, aged nine and a half, we all grieved his loss as though he were a member of the family.

Which, of course, he was.

He is buried in our garden, with poems from the girls and a bone, and his picture has pride of place in our living room.

Simba came next, an equally delightful rescue dog, this time from the RSPCA in Swansea. He was with us for just five years, but was just as much part of the family. His relationship with the hoover was less amicable: he hated it and chewed it to bits (I would happily have done the same).

We adored him nevertheless and, as with Jacob, he contributed so much to our family life. Petless now for a number of years, we miss a dog's presence (if not the hairs) in our home.

There is nothing quite like a dog's welcome when you open the front door – and nothing quite like their unconditional devotion.

It was this empirical research into the life of rescue dogs which informed my agenda when I recently visited the Dogs Trust and Croft Kennels in Bridgend. This, and the almost-daily dissing of dogs in the media, which seems to have become routine of late.

Our nation's once much-loved mutts have been getting a pretty bad press, with stories of dog fouling, puppy farming (Wales is the national hot spot for this heinous practice), designer (Cockapoos and Labradoodles) and dangerous dogs all grabbing the headlines.

With an estimated 8 – 10 million dogs in the UK, we appear to remain a nation of dog-lovers, but despite a six per cent drop in numbers from the previous year, the 2013 stray dog figures show that too many continue to be abandoned – 111,986 nationwide.

In Wales, an encouraging 14 per cent decrease was also noted last year, from 10,230 to 8,840, but this is still the fifth highest number of strays per authority in the UK – an average of 24 dogs being picked up every day.

So what exactly are the main problems – and are we able to solve them?

Jamie Graham, who has worked at Croft Kennels for just over a year, is unequivocal: "It's hardly ever the dogs who are the problem. It's what's at the other end of the lead". A damning indictment, indeed, of the inadequacies of many owners.

Jamie, one of a small team at the kennels, which act as the official dog pound for Bridgend and the Vale, sees this problem time and time again.

"Any dog can be a good dog with the right training. And the dog needs to be the right match for the owner. This ongoing criticism of Staffies, for example, it's just not fair on the dogs.

"They are a great breed. People forget that they were originally labelled 'nanny dogs' because they are so good with children. The 'hound from hell' image has come about because they have gone to the wrong homes, where they've been cooped up for long hours. Or kids have been allowed to taunt them.

"It's a lack of education on the owners' part. You can buy a dog cheaply so easily these days. Look..."

He scrolls down his phone to show me a site offering pups for as little as £30. "There are no questions asked by the seller about suitability and the owner has no idea what he or she is taking on.

"Two months down the line, the owners can't cope, which means another dog brought to us or found wandering on the streets".

Jamie has a passion to change the situation and a passion for his work: "If your heart weren't in this, there'd be no point in walking through the gate in the morning.

"It's a vocation and it's like a family up here. We all try our best to get the dogs back into good, loving homes".

In a quiet, rural location near Coity, on the outskirts of Bridgend, Croft Kennels was established by Adrienne Morgan 19 years ago, cares for up to 52 dogs and acts as the official Dog

by CAROLINE SARLL

Pound for both Bridgend county and the Vale.

"We have a non-destruction policy here" adds Jamie. "It's extremely rare for a dog to be put to sleep and there has to be a very good reason. We try our very best to reunite a dog with its owner, but we often find they are not reclaimed due to cost.

"We have to charge for housing and feeding the dog while it's with us, and there's a reclaiming cost, but many people don't want to – or can't pay the fee when they arrive. It's a tough economic climate".

The day I visit, there are several empty kennels. "We are having a quiet spell at the moment, which is encouraging". All the dogs are well-groomed and there is clear affection from all the workers for their charges:

"We work hard with them and try to iron out any little problems. You do get very attached to them", says another staff member, Chris Hopkins, who worked for 10 years in a boarding kennels in France before starting at Croft.

He echoes Jamie's sentiments about some owners. "It's frustrating that the dogs are often here because they haven't been given the necessary guidelines from the start".

This feeling was echoed, too, by Beverly Price, Dogs Trust manager in Bridgend: "People think they can just buy a dog, without doing any research or having any of the necessary skills: it's like expecting to drive a car without having any lesson.

"We get up to a hundred calls a week from people asking us to take their dogs – and often it's because they simply can't cope. They haven't undergone any training and they are not in tune with the dog's needs: people forget that each dog has its own personality, just like a human being".

Beverly, who has worked at the Dogs Trust for 22 years and owns three dogs of her own, all of whom were with her when I visited, was keen to stress from the outset that the whole 'dog situation in this country' needs readdressing.

"We are seeing so much neglect and cruelty and more maltreatment than 10 years ago. It's not just unscrupulous breeders, either, although that is clearly a problem. We are getting more and more cases of people buying dogs, then trying to carry on with their working lives, full time.

"Some people are locking their dogs in crates and often leaving them there all day while they are out. It's shocking. The dogs then develop behavioural issues, because they are bored and frustrated. And, on a basic level, they probably need the toilet. It's really awful.

"We always tell people that you shouldn't leave a dog for more than three to four hours at a time, maximum. Never all day. The dog will be so lonely, which can lead to anxiety and other problems.

"There's a lack of education and a lack of time invested in the dog. There is no commitment from a lot of people these days. They just give up and want to give the dog back, which leads to broken attachments for the dog. It's heartbreaking".

Consulting her notes – "There is so much I want to tell you!" – Beverly moves on to what is clearly – no pun intended – one of her pet hates:

"The biggest issue I think we are confronting at the moment is that of designer dogs, or dogs as fashion items. Money-driven breeders are creating these hybrids – Yorkipoos, cockapoos and the like – and they are creating all sorts of behavioural and health problems in the dogs.

"Women carry them round in their handbags – and the dogs then refuse to walk anywhere. It's not natural. And some of the cross breeds have traits that are simply not compatible – like a collie and a bull breed – you've got speed in the one and strength in the other – and people don't know how to manage them".

Beverly agrees with Jamie at Croft Kennels that Staffies are thoroughly misunderstood: "They are one of the most abused dogs of today. Any pound you visit will be full of them. Of the 20 calls we get a day, 70 per cent of them will be about Staffies. They are being overbred.

"They often end up in families where they don't get treated properly. Too often they are not properly socialised. Again, it's down to a question of training – or lack of it. I can't stress that enough.

"But it has to be the right sort of training, where positive reinforcement is used with treats and titbits – no choke chains or other harsh methods! We offer training classes here on Thursday evenings. They are run by our TBAs (Training and Behavioural Advisors) and we encourage all adopters to attend. It's in our interests and theirs. We don't want to see a dog being brought back".



I ask Beverly whether we would benefit from another Barbara Woodhouse figurehead? "Maybe. But what we really need is to get the message across that all owners should undergo training with their dogs – with professionals.

"It's so obvious, but I think it's what has to happen. We are back to the driving lessons analogy. And, like small children, dogs do love a routine".

Beverly, who manages a staff of 26, which includes canine carers, a campaigns officer and an education and a veterinary department, runs through the rigid dog adoption process, which includes a home visit to ensure that the home and garden are safe. "You wouldn't necessarily get that from a private seller".

The fee to adopt a dog is £80, which includes four weeks' free insurance, all vaccinations, neutering ("vital, in the battle to reduce the number of strays"), a lead and a collar. All dogs leave the Trust microchipped.

"It will be compulsory from March 1, 2015 for all dogs to be microchipped. We are offering a free drop-in service, so there is ample opportunity for all owners to get this done. Like neutering, it's a vital step towards reducing the number of abandoned dogs."

Linda Feagan, supporter relations officer at the Dogs Trust, Bridgend, picks up on this: "It's such a quick and easy form of ID. From next March, there will be a penalty enforced if a dog is found unchipped.

"As owners can get it done for free at the moment, there is no excuse not to! And it clearly works. 40 per cent of dogs reunited with their owners last year were due to microchipping, compared with 22 per cent the previous year. We also need to ensure that more dogs are neutered, to avoid the problem of overbreeding.

"Sadly, there were still 9,000 dogs put to sleep last year across the UK. We have a non-destruction policy, but with so many new dogs coming in every week, it's inevitable that some will not be rehomed".

Fun day and Dog Show

While acknowledging the problems, it is important to remember the undisputed joy and benefits of dog ownership, something that Croft Kennels and the Dogs Trust are keen to promote. Linda's remit includes the organising of the annual Fun Day And Dog Show in Margam Park.

This year, it takes place on June 22 and for Linda and the team, it is a vital opportunity to show the public just how much fun having a dog can be:

"We've talked about a lot of the problems, but I want to stress the positive side as well. Having a dog can be so rewarding. In this year's show, we have a waggiest tail competition, best trick, doggy dancing and a golden oldie award" (for the dogs or the owners, I wonder?).

"Many adopters come to show off their charges. The pride people take in their pets is wonderful to witness. And it's another great opportunity for the dogs to socialise – another key aspect of successful dog ownership."

Linda is also a great advocate of the Dogs Trust Sponsoring Scheme. "For just £1 a week, you can make a difference to a dog's life, helping to feed it, pay for vets' bills and even for toys.

"It's a great scheme for dog lovers who can't accommodate a dog in their home. The chosen dog sends the sponsor birthday and Christmas cards – and even Valentine cards! The scheme is working really well".

And what about funding? "As a charity, we rely on donations from our wonderful supporters to allow us to continue the work we do", says Linda.



"Many people choose to become a member of Dogs Trust, others choose to sponsor a dog and around a quarter of our income comes from people leaving a gift to Dogs Trust in their will".

As a much smaller operation, which only has four members of staff, Croft Kennels are often stretched to the limit financially. Jamie talks with fondness about two dogs they have recently rescued, both of whom required urgent surgery.

"Twix is a delightful eight-year-old chocolate Lab, who came to us with a massive tumour on her side. Polly is a one-year-old Black Lab, who had a tumour on her mammary. We paid for both dogs' operations out of our own funds and, hopefully, they will make a full recovery. Polly already has a new home to go to, which is such a relief".

Clearly struggling to cover the costs of such major surgery, Jamie is keen to talk about Crofts' latest initiative to raise awareness and much-needed funding. "We are launching a Friends of Croft Kennels Scheme and inviting any dog lovers to come and volunteer with us.

"We need help with dog walking and maintenance, as well as fundraising and awareness campaigns. We'll be celebrating our 20th anniversary soon, so we need help with that too. We hope to organise a big open day".

At the Dogs Trust, as Beverly and I walk to the kennel area to see the dogs currently awaiting new homes, we check on her own trix bedded down in the office, on the way. Beverly, like all the people I have spoken to is clearly passionate about dog welfare and desperately keen to see a more responsible attitude towards man's best friend.

She is keen to emphasise that the Dogs Trust will always be there to provide ongoing advice and support for all adopters, even after the dog has long left their care.

I applaud the work that all these marvellous people do – at the Dogs Trust, Croft Kennels and other rehoming centres – and also the emotional tenacity it requires: it can't be easy seeing abandoned creatures day in day out.

It must also be extremely tough bonding with these loving and desperate-to-be-loved animals, then having to let them go. As a respite foster carer (for children), I know how difficult and painful these temporary relationships can be. But it is clear that we desperately need more canine adopters to come forward.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

VITAL WORK OF THE DOGS TRUST



Chris Hopkins at Croft Kennels, with George.



Twix, after her operation.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22
THE Dogs Trust, the UK's largest dog welfare charity (boasting the Queen as its patron), looks after 17,000 dogs annually in the UK.

In Bridgend, the centre rehomed 600 every year. But, as the Dogs Trust slogan so clearly states, if you are thinking of getting a dog, it is 'for life, not just for Christmas'.

We had Jacob Woodie Sausage for nine years. My sister had her German Shepherd, Rubble, for nearly 13. If your dog is fortunate enough to live a long, healthy life, it is really like raising another child. There is much hard work required – but there are many, many rewards.

Having a dog teaches you about loyalty and commitment. A dog keeps you fit. As we all race at breakneck speed through life these days, a dog can also teach us to slow down.

For me, an inveterate A-type personality, multitasking like mad, one of the greatest pleasures of owning Jacob and Simba was sitting down and stroking them and communicating with one another in silence.

When it comes to emotional

intelligence, our canine cousins really are top dogs. They sense our every mood and are there for us through thick and thin. Thinking of all the dogs I have seen over the last few days, their appealing eyes looking up at me as I patted and stroked them, I hope that it will not be too long before we as a family welcome another rescue dog into our home – and before others decide to take the plunge.

With all the right information and training, this is one purchase you will not regret – and which need not break the bank. Although there are obvious costs, including vets' bills, dogs, unlike most of us these days, are not materialistic and will generally be happy with an old, chewed ball, a daily bowl (or two) of food and a bed. The main thing they need, as Beverly stated, is time – and endless love. Neither of these need cost you a penny.

If you would like any further information on Dogs Trust, please call Linda on 01656 728923 or go to: www.dogstrust.org.uk/bridgend.

Croft Kennels can be contacted on: 01656 862288 or at www.croftrescuekennels.net.

Mint outreach to local schools

THE Royal Mint Museum in Llantrisant has developed free resources for teachers and pupils wishing to explore the world of coins through a range of creative activities to support the National Curriculum, and is offering local schools educational outreach sessions.

'Coins in the Classroom' has been designed to complement the curriculum at Key Stage 2 but can be easily adapted for Key Stage 3 using the curriculum links outlined in each lesson.

Every 'Coins in the Classroom' pack contains six lessons which detail the history, design and manufacturing of coins, and includes teachers' notes, lesson plans, fact files, worksheets and whiteboard resource.

The resources can be downloaded for free from the Royal Mint Museum's website www.royalmintmuseum.org.uk/.

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Gorseinon and Bridgend-based Securahome has been designing and building orangeries for many of its 20 years in business, and in that time no two have been the same.

Orangery expert Nigel Hocking explains: "We start the process by asking 'how do you want to use the room?' Once the

ideas flow, the exciting part of creating something completely bespoke begins."

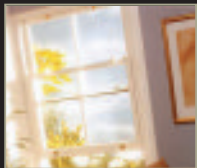
In these early stages, Securahome's designers create a 3D CAD model to help homeowners work through their ideas.

"Over the years those ideas have included wood burners vented through a pillar, fold away 'glass walls' created using bi-folding doors and ultra-modern floor to ceiling glass," Nigel adds. "Just about anything is possible."

Aesthetics aside, when you create your perfect living space, it's important to be able to enjoy it – whatever the weather. To ensure that's possible, high levels of insulation are a must.

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Local police issue a warning over garden furniture

POLICE in Maesteg are appealing for information after a spate of thefts of garden furniture over the past month.

A number of wooden benches and full sets of hardwood and rattan garden furniture, some of which are of high value, have been removed from gardens overnight.

Police Sergeant Robert Lewis said: "We are keen to speak to anyone who may have been offered the stolen items for sale".

South Wales Police are warning that the beginning of summer sees an increase of thefts from locations such as garages, gardens and garden sheds.

Garden tools such as

electric drills, jigsaws and sanders can be among the most popular items for thieves.

Deborah Elward, crime reduction advisor for Bridgend and the Vale, said: "We would urge all homeowners to make sure their sheds are properly secured and remember to clear up every evening so there's nothing left lying around that could tempt opportunist thieves."

"There are simple steps you can take to protect your garden, such as putting away your gardening tools or children's toys at the end of the day and locking your sheds. If you have any bulky items which can't be locked away, such as a large gas barbecue or garden furniture, then do what you can to secure them".

Deborah Elward

added: "Loose items such as ladders and wheelie bins are the perfect 'tools' for opportunist thieves to use in order to gain access into your home, so always make sure you lock them away or place them out of sight".

Anyone with any information in relation to the theft of the

garden furniture, or who may have been offered the stolen items for sale, should contact South Wales Police on 101. Information can also be given anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

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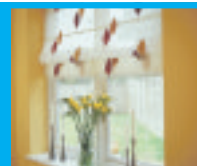
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Who wants to build what, and where?

Mr Mike Bretland – 7 **Beach Road, Penarth** – Demolition of existing garage/store and rebuild.
Mr Richard Pinnington – 12 **Britway Road, Dinas Powys** – Two storey rear extension.
Mrs Eda Kennedy – 17 **Borough Close, Cowbridge** – Creation of two separate dwellings from existing dwelling and granny annexe. Resubmission of refusal 2013/00313/FUL.

Mr Christopher Edwards – **Llantwit Major Library, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major** – Refurbishment of Llantwit Major Library.
Mr Andrew Clarke – 28 **West Farm Road, Ogmere By Sea** – Renovation extension of existing detached dwelling new garden room.

Mrs S Bell – 153 **Redlands Road, Penarth** – Proposed ground floor garden room and sitting room extension.

Mr Oliver Foot – 18 **Wordsworth Avenue, Penarth** – Construction of first floor bedroom extension above existing single storey kitchen

annexe.
Mr John Maidment – 4 **Manor Park, Llantwit Major** – Rear two storey extension to dwelling.
Ms S Rees – 67 **Heol yr Frenhines, Dinas Powys** – Demolish existing single storey garage and single storey flat roof extension, and porch to the front. Construct new two storey extension to side and new single storey lean-to at rear, and single storey annexe taking footprint of original garage.

Mr Andy and Mrs Jackie Thomas – 6 **Westgate, Cowbridge** – Conversion of existing covered car port to garage.

Mrs Leeke – **Townmill House, Townmill Road, Cowbridge** – Erect orangery style conservatory.

Mr Robert Harry – **Land between Pop Hill and Cross Common Road, Dinas Powys** – Proposed road.

Miss Jane Cummings – 24 **John Street, Barry** – Single storey extension to back of property.
Mr and Mrs Jeff Shorney – 58

Cosmeston Drive, Penarth – Ground and first floor extension.
Mr Craig Maxwell – 5 **Hastings Avenue, Penarth** – Proposed rear extension plus associated works.

Mr and Mrs William Fear – 1 **Lewis Road, Llandough, Penarth** – Ground floor rear extension and first floor rear extension above existing structure. New storm porch and screen wall to existing main entrance.

Mrs Sheila David – **Kendall, 6 Church Road, Wick** – Pruning and removal of all dead wood and ivy to pine tree.

Mrs M Davies – 31 **Smithies Avenue, Sully** – Proposed rear single storey bedroom extension.
Hawkins Brothers Investment Properties – **Candide, St Mary Hill, Pencoeed** – Construct detached single storey garage to accommodate three cars (with storage facilities for sit-on mower, etc).

Mr Harmesh Singh – **The Admiral, Vere Street, Barry** – New fascia and signage.
Mr Syd Gaughan – **Marsyd, St**

Lythans – Retention of manege and perimeter fencing.
BDW Trading Ltd – **West Pond, land at Barry Waterfront, Barry** – Amendment to layout as permitted by applications 2009/00946/OUT and 2012/00732/EAR – repositioning of plots 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 72, 73, 74 and 75.

Mr Simon Baston – **Windsor Arcade, Windsor Road, Penarth** – Replacement of glazing bars to central atrium and windows.

Mr Malcolm Bennett – 8 **Mallard Way, Penarth** – Demolition of existing conservatory at the rear of the property. Construction of single height extension in place of existing conservatory. Construction of single height extension on the northern side of the house.

Mr Robert Harry – **Land adjacent Old Port Road, Wenvoe** – Retention of rear storage area and extension to form two new stables.

Mr and Mrs M Birbraer – 16 **Althorpe Drive, Cosmeston,**

Penarth – Extend to ground floor new sun lounge, bedroom, utility room, cloakroom and porch.

Mr Chris Rowlands – **Four Winds, St Lythans Road, St Lythans** – Utility room extension to rear.

Mr Derek Price – **The Rise, Highwalls End, Dinas Powys** – Extension for bedroom – ensuite, home office and ancillary room.

Mr Justin Williams – 19 **Countess Place, Penarth** – Rear two storey extension and roof conversion.

Mrs N Richards – **Tudor Lodge, Bonvilston** – Erection of external sheep shed for water and feed storage.

Dr Cheryl Ellis – **Yr Hen Felin Wynt, Windmill Close, Wick** – To erect a horse stable, tack room, hay and feed store with turnout area for one horse and one pony.

Ms Amber Constant – **Colcot Primary School, Florence Avenue, Barry** – Demolition of two dilapidated prefabricated classroom units. Construction of two new classrooms, revised entry to school building, internal

refurbishment of section of school for use as Flying Start Pre-school education facility together with new car parking and ancillary works.

Mr Chris Spiteri – 87 **Main Street, Barry** – Conversion of property to form nine self-contained flats with associated elevational changes and external works to rear.

Mrs Louise Thomas – 24 **Rectory Close, Wenvoe** – Two storey side extension.

Lee Thomas – 47 **Claude Road, Barry** – Construction of a new detached garage to front of property.

Namulas Pension Trustees Ltd – 38 **Windsor Road, Penarth** – Variation of conditions 5 and 12 of Planning Permission 2013/01192/FUL (Change of Use from Class A1 (Shops) to Class A3 (Hot Food Takeaway)) and external alterations, including the installation of ventilation and extraction equipment).

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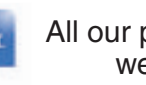
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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE?

One Stop Stores Ltd - **Londis Supermarket, Shop 5 units 4 - 6, Plas Cleddau, Barry** - Ms Kate Gardner - **9 St Ambrose Close, Dinas Powys** - Second storey extension to existing single storey side extension with four roof lights. New pitched roof to replace flat roof on existing side garage.
Mr Hashem Djaiz - **Yr Rhosyn, Highlight Lane, Barry** - Proposed relocation and rebuild of existing granny annexe in garden.
A Design Build Ltd - **8 Senni Close, Barry** - Re-application of expired full planning for two storey extension.
Mr Michael Kay - **The Sages, Colwinston** - Take down and rebuild natural stone boundary wall.
Mr Keith Stephenson - **The Greave, Port Road, Wenvoe** - Replacement of windows with windows and doors including Juliet balconies and the construction of new porch and balcony to an existing residential property.

Gardens open for viewing

THE following gardens are open on the weekend of June 15 under the NCT Gardens scheme.
Pontygwaith Farm, Edwardsville, near Treharris, CF46 5PD.

This 4½ acre garden surrounding a 17th century farmhouse is adjacent to Trevithick's Tramway. Situated in picturesque wooded valley. Fishpond, lawns, perennial borders, new lakeside walk, rose garden, Japanese garden. Grade II listed humpback packhorse bridge in garden, spanning River Taff. A lovely day out for all the family. Welcome to visitors on the Taff Trail (April - Sept, 10am - 5pm).

Open: June 15, 16 (10 - 5), admission £3.50. Visitors also welcome by appointment May to August.

Porthcawl gardens, Porthcawl, CF36 5EB
Shortlands has recently been refurbished and the garden is now being tackled and restored to its former glory.

The garden is approximately two acres and divided into four areas. Front garden is laid to lawns and shrubs together with mature trees, a formal walled garden with central water feature, two further large lawns surrounded by mature trees and shrubs with

summer house. Tythegston Pottery is a developing natural varied garden (1/3acre) with borders, rockery, lawn, vegetable garden, soft fruit cages and fruit trees, and a shady bank with ferns.

3 Lias Cottage garden is delightful with a profusion of colour all year-round, a real secret.

Newton Cottage has a large informal cottage garden. Mixed borders, good variety of shrubs, climbers and herbaceous plants. Box garden. Kitchen garden.

Open: June 15 (12-6), admission £5.

Bordervale Plants, Sandy Lane, Ystradowen, Cowbridge, Glamorgan, CF71 7SX

Within mature woodland valley (semi-tamed), with stream and bog garden, extensive mixed borders; mini wild flower meadow, providing diverse wildlife habitats.

Children must be supervised. The Nursery specialises in unusual perennials and cottage garden plants.

Nursery open: Fri - Sun (10-5), (and often open Mon - Thurs) Mar - September, when garden is also open May - September. NOT FOR NGS.

Open: For NGS: June 18, (10-5), admission £3.

Top award for new homes site manager

HOUSE BUILDER
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Homes has won a South Wales LABC Building Excellency Award.

Llanmoor site manager, Jeremy White was awarded 'best site agent' for his outstanding achievements in building new houses of exceptional quality at the company's Pentre Felin development in Tondur.

He has worked for Llanmoor for nine years, and was recognised by the LABC for his clear and concise communication with Bridgend Building Control, and his meticulously maintained sites.

Jeremy will now go forward to the National LABC Building Excellency awards in November, where he will compete against site



Jeremy White with his award.

managers from across the UK.

He said: "It is a real honour to receive this award. I was thrilled to win at the Bridgend Building Awards, and to then be awarded best in south Wales was a wonderful surprise. I am very lucky to work with a fantastic team at Pentre Felin and I could not have got this award without them, so I must say a big thank you to everyone on the site for their hard work over the last year."

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN?

Mr David Pearn – **Pearns Pharmacies Ltd, 36 Windsor Road, Penarth** – New shopfront with wheelchair access to the existing pharmacy.
 Grace Baxter, Bay View – **Bay View, 3 Old Barry Road, Penarth** – Change of Use. Up to a maximum of 10 other children/young adults all living in the house as a single family.
 Mr C and Mrs J Eason – **The Anchorage, Penlllyn** – First floor extension above garage, rear ground floor extension and internal remodelling and alterations.
 Cowbridge Comprehensive School – **Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Aberthin Road, Cowbridge** – The erection of a single storey steel framed and clad storage shed.
 Mr Cy Wisenden – **98 Broadway, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – Demolition of existing porch and replacement with new slightly larger porch; replacement of existing flat roof on front bedroom with pitched roof; conversion of existing garage into garden room.
 Mrs Yvonne Gimber – **17 Caynham Avenue, Penarth** – Proposed dormer conversion to an existing single storey residential bungalow and proposed rear extension. The proposed development includes raising the existing roof ridge line by 500mm.
 Mr AH and Mrs L Monger – **Land at 4 and 5 Salop Place, Penarth** –

Demolition of redundant buildings used as builder's yard and construction of two-bedroom bungalow (renewal of 2009/00192/FUL).
 Mr Paul Drew – **Ivy Cottage, Leckwith Road, Cardiff** – Reconfiguration of highways access, replacing existing impracticably steep driveway with lay-by parking parallel to highway.
 Mr Cliff Price – **Canoldir, Dyffryn** – Removal and replacement of existing UPVC windows and doors with double glazed HW units; removal of existing concrete roof tiles and replacement with slate tiles; form new main entrance on west elevation and provide new flat roof (zinc/lead) with skylight; formation of new windows at first floor; proposed double garage.
 Mr and Mrs Jason Godden – **58 Smithies Avenue, Sully** – Proposed ground floor side extension.
 Mr and Mrs Mark Davies – **28 Evenlode Avenue, Penarth** – Proposed demolition of existing conservatory and the construction of a new single storey extension in the rear garden.
 Mr Dave Matthews – **34 Millfield Drive, Cowbridge** – Proposed two storey extension to side and rear of existing dwelling.
 Ms J Sharkey – **Ninian House, Wine Street, Llantwit Major** – Demolition of existing rear annexes, construction of two storey rear extension and internal

alterations to property.
 Mr Adrian Jones – **2 Britten Road, Penarth** – Demolish existing single storey garage. Construction of two storey side extension and front/rear dormers.
 Mr and Mrs David Baker – **29 Borough Close, Cowbridge** – Part single with part two storey rear extension.
 VJ Thomas & Son – **Pancross Farm, Llancafarn** – Planning application for dairy loose housing.
 Dunraven Estates Company – **Sealands Farm, St Brides Major** – Access, track, hardstanding and grain store building.
 Mr Terry Edgell – **Llwynddu, Welsh St Donats** – Construction of 25m x 45m private equestrian manege on redundant ground.
 Taylor Wimpey plc and South Wales Land Development – **Land north of the railway line (west), Rhose** – Residential development with associated access and associated works, to include public open space and land for a primary school (including the demolition of 46 Porthkerry Road and its associated outbuildings).
 Mrs Rhian Griffiths – **123 Stanwell Road, Penarth** – Removal of dilapidated garage and workshop; single storey rear extension in existing workshop area.
 Mr Jonathan Powell – **Danygraig,**

Graig Penlllyn – Demolish existing farmhouse and erect two dwellings with associated works.
 Dr S Wyatt – **Ty Fry Farm, Llandow** – Reroofing and recladding of attached shed. Reroofing of pigsties and vertical slate hanging off attached wall.
 Mr Mark Ridgeway – **16 Parklands, Corntown** – Rear extension to detached garage.
 Dr John Crimmins – **Ty Croeso, West End, Llantwit Major** – To demolish existing garage and erect in its place a single storey annexe providing accommodation and facilities for a disabled person including overnight room for a carer.
 Mrs Miriam Braddon – **5 Romilly Road, Rhose** – Single storey side extension.
 Maria Hajigeorgis – **16 York Place, Barry** – The change of use of the ancillary retail floor space to create a self-contained two bedroom apartment to the rear of 16 York Place, Barry.
 Mr James Hindmarsh – **2 Church Place, South, Penarth** – Modifications to garage.
 TJ Kinsey & Sons – **Cwm Derwen, Weycock Road, Barry** – Extension to existing barn.
 Ms Alison Leach – **Enclosure 8807, Sigingstone Lane, Llanmaes** – Erection of polytunnel 14 ft (4.267m) x 36 ft (20.973m).

Mrs Julie Richardson – **Yr Ysgubor, St Lythans** – Amendments to previous consent 2013/00272/FUL – extension to utility area to rear of garage and alterations to existing dwelling and proposed link.
 Mrs Gaynor Millar – **PW Millar Ltd, 148 Port Road East, Barry** – Non-illuminated fascia sign.
 Mr Paul Rolley – **7 Fulmar Close, Lavernock Park, Penarth** – Proposed porch and rear dormer to property.
 Mr Reginald Forse – **Reg Forse Land, Cog Moors, nr Barry** – Proposed building.
 Mr Jonathan Werrett – **Barry Comprehensive School, Port Road West, Barry** – Demolition of existing two storey art block and replacement with single storey modular building.
 Mr John Payne – **4 Doniford Close, Sully** – Proposed rear lower extension to property.
 Mr John Smith – **Wenvoe Service Station and West Cross, Port Road, Wenvoe** – Erection of three two-bedroom dormer bungalows on site currently used for repair of motor vehicles and residential land.

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Ramblers enjoy an evening walk around Porthkerry

A GROUP of Penarth and District Ramblers met up with their leaders Jan and John at the Toby Inn car park on Port Road for a four-mile evening walk, taking in Porthkerry Country Park.

Dark clouds overshadowed the sky which soon turned into rainfall that stayed for the whole of their journey.

Following the lane beside the pub past Cwm Cidi Farm adjacent to the Millwood it was interesting to note that at Cwm Cidi, which translated means the valley of the black dog and, according to folklore emits an eerie howl as travellers pass through the lane, way back in the middle of the 13th century a village grew up.

Through the passing years the village declined and when the Romilly family cleared the area to form Porthkerry Park during the 1840s, any remaining dwellings were removed.

Making their way up the footpath through the wood beside the main Barry to Bridgend railway line, the group reached open fields at West Ridge and crossing stiles and edging around meadows full of wheat, rather soggy views towards Cardiff International Airport came into view.

Descending through a field rutted by the hoofs of cattle and passing an old ruined cottage to cross the bridge over the Whitelands Brook, they avoided energetic young cattle in the next field to emerge beside the Old Rectory, which later became the Egerton Gray Hotel which is no longer open for business.

Crossing a field behind the imposing Porthkerry Viaduct and climbing the narrow sunken lane up to Church Farm, then across the green to the whitewashed St Curig's Church, the group turned inland heading down through a steep woodland path to cross the pitch and putt course.

Then, following soggy paths through

Knockmandown Wood they re-joined the lane to make their way back to their start.

On June 14, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an 11-mile moderate walk taking in the Iron Trail at Blaenavon; contact Clive on 029 2065 4156.

On June 15, meet 9.30am at Cogan for a six-mile easy walk at the Severn crossings (ferry and bridge); contact Jan/John on 01446 418514.

On June 19, meet 7pm at the Colcot Arms pub, Colcot Road, Barry (do not use the pub car park) for a 3.5-mile moderate walk in the Goldsland valley; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Joy Strangward

Merrie weekend at Cosmeston Medieval Village



COSMESTON Medieval Village was sent travelling back in time 600 years over the bank holiday weekend for its fantastic Troubled Times event.

Despite the poor weather on the Sunday, the weekend was a big success with Monday seeing over 500 visitors turn up to experience the sights, sounds and smells of medieval Wales.

Guests were treated to a travelling fayre carrying unusual goods for sale, a falconer

displaying his beautiful hawks and falcons, and an armoured foot tournament which saw the strongest men-at-arms battling for the title of champion.

During the event, medieval minstrels A Merrie Noyse provided some music and dancing lords and ladies gathered to teach guests some traditional dances.

Coun Gwyn John said: "I am delighted that so many people who visited Cosmeston enjoyed their day at the Medieval Village and I look forward to them attending further events in the future."

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/00514/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Relandscape part of the rear garden to create new seating area together with a summerhouse
Location:/Lleoliad: Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	32, Plymouth Road, Penarth
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/00550/OUT
Proposal/Cynnig:	Residential development with associated access and associated works, to include public open space and land for a primary school (including the demolition of 46 Porthkerry Road and its associated outbuildings)
Location:/Lleoliad: Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Land north of the railway line (west), Rhooose
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/00572/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Modifications to garage
Location:/Lleoliad: Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	2, Church Place South, Penarth
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/00588/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Demolition existing garage/store and rebuild
Location:/Lleoliad: Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	7, Beach Road, Penarth

Listed Building Consent/Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/00502/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Renew the existing natural slate roof covering to the whole property; reuse 50% of the existing slates on the front elevation and use new Spanish Del Carmen Grade 1 slates to the rear elevations
Location:/Lleoliad: Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Great House, Bridge Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/00506/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Enlarge and existing window to form an external door providing access from the kitchen to the west walled garden
Location:/Lleoliad: Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Great House, Bridge Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/00543/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Take down and rebuild natural stone boundary wall
Location:/Lleoliad: Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	The Sages, Colwinston
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/00544/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Reroofing and recladding of attached shed. Reroofing of pigsties and vertical slate hanging off attached wall
Location:/Lleoliad: Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Ty Fry Farm, Llandow
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/00618/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Replacement of glazing bars to central atrium and windows
Location:/Lleoliad: Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Windsor Arcade, Windsor Road, Penarth

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/00490/OUT
Proposal/Cynnig:	Residential development comprising the erection of up to 25 dwellings together with associated access, services and landscaping (outline)
Location:/Lleoliad:	Church Farm, Ystradowen
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/00516/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Planning application for Dairy Loose Housing
Location:/Lleoliad:	Pancross Farm, Llancafan
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/00536/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	The erection of a single storey steel framed and clad storage shed
Location:/Lleoliad:	Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Aberthin Road, Cowbridge
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/00550/OUT
Proposal/Cynnig:	Residential development with associated access and associated works, to include public open space and land for a primary school (including the demolition of 46 Porthkerry Road and its associated outbuildings)
Location:/Lleoliad:	Land north of the railway line (west), Rhooose
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/00557/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Conversion of property to form 9 No. self-contained flats with associated elevational changes and external works to rear.
Location:/Lleoliad:	87, Main Street, Barry
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/00625/RES
Proposal/Cynnig:	Amendment to layout as permitted by applications 2009/00946/OUT and 2012/00732/EAR - repositioning of plots 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 72, 73, 74 and 75.
Location:/Lleoliad:	West Pond, land at Barry Waterfront, Barry

May affect a Public Right of Way Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/00550/OUT
Proposal/Cynnig:	Residential development with associated access and associated works, to include public open space and land for a primary school (including the demolition of 46 Porthkerry Road and its associated outbuildings)
Location:/Lleoliad:	Land north of the railway line (west), Rhooose

Departure from Development Plan / Gwyrto o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No./Rhif y cais:	2014/00632/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	New Vocational Learning Centre for Beechwood College including change of use from agricultural land. Facilities proposed include a new Vocational Centre (2-year temporary consent), workshops, paddock, stables and polytunnel
Location:/Lleoliad:	Beechwood College, Beechwood House, Hayes Road, Sully

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 12 June, 2014

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Gallery hosts D-Day landings exhibition

THROUGHOUT June, the Art Central gallery in Barry is marking the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings with a retrospective exhibition of work by celebrated female war artist, Ray Howard-Jones.

This commemoration is significant to the area as Howard-Jones was a Penarth resident and was one of only a few female artists engaged by the War Commission to paint the preparations for D-Day along the south Wales coastline.

This impressive collection of work has been co-ordinated and curated by Emeritus Professor of Poetry of the University of Glamorgan and established writer and poet Tony Curtis.

Ray Howard-Jones was born in Berkshire in 1903. She was christened Rose Marie Howard-Jones, and was later affectionately nicknamed 'Ray the Paint' by her friends. She moved to Penarth at the age of two and was

raised in her grandfather's home on Plymouth Road. In the early 1920s Ray studied at Slade School of Fine Art in London, and was described by Wilson Steer as "the finest colourist the Slade has ever produced."

Ray is best known for her paintings along the Penarth and Pembrokeshire coastlines, but perhaps her most significant accomplishments are her recordings of the D-Day Landing preparations in 1944 of Penarth and Cardiff Docks.

For this retrospective, works have been brought together from numerous public and private collections across Wales and England. Her work is displayed substantially in the National Library and National Museum of Wales, as well as in the Imperial War Museum in London.

The 'Ray Howard-Jones: A Retrospective' will be on display at Art Central Gallery, Town Hall, King's Square, Barry from Saturday, June 7 until Saturday, July 5.

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THE LLANDOW RACE DAY RAISES FUNDS FOR ONE OF THE VALE'S GREAT CAUSES

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A CHARITY track day at Llandow motor circuit last month raised more than £1,000 plus Gift Aid for two charities – the local Ed Evans Foundation and Combat Stress, the ex-Services mental welfare society.

The event provided an opportunity for drivers to experience speed in their own cars in a safe and interesting environment.

Local clients of Combat Stress were invited to take passenger rides in a wide range of cars, including a Ford Escort, Mazda MX5, BMW M3 and Porsche 911.

The day was sponsored by Bells Engineering of Slough, which supplies valves for the power-generation industry.

The organiser, Christopher Darwin from Devon, said: "We have been running fundraising events at motor circuits for several years; this was our eighth event at Llandow and brought the total raised for the Ed Evans Foundation to over £10,000.

"We were well-supported by the circuit management and had another enjoyable day."

The Ed Evans Foundation was established in 2006 and has already raised over £170,000 for Cancer Research Wales and other charities. See www.edevansfoundation.co.uk

Combat Stress is a military charity specialising in the care of veterans' mental health. It treats conditions such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression and anxiety disorders – and its services are free of charge to the veteran. See www.combatstress.org.uk



Taking care of the yew trees

A CAMPAIGN is being launched to protect one of Wales' oldest natural assets – a species of tree which, like Doctor Who, can regenerate over thousands of years.

The yew tree is a familiar sight in most churchyards and some are even older than the Christian faith itself due to their ability to regenerate and regrow.

Wales is one of the most significant places in Europe for ancient or veteran yew trees and most of them are found in churchyards.

According to a survey by the Ancient Yew Group, the

Church in Wales owns 334 yew trees that are more than 500 years old.

It is now joining forces with two organisations during Cherishing Churchyards Week (June 7 – 15) to raise awareness of yews and encourage their sensitive care and management.

For more information, visit: www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/index.php/cherishing-churchyards-week/cherishing-churchyards-week-2.

The Ancient Yew Group publishes lists of the trees concerned on line. Visit <http://www.ancient-yew.org/>



FINES AND PRISON FOR FLY-TIPPING

THE Minister for Natural Resources, Alun Davies AM, last week set out plans to reduce fly-tipping across Wales.

During 2012/13, there were over 34,000 reported incidents of fly-tipping, which cost the Welsh taxpayer £1.9 million to clear up. Although incidents of fly-tipping have decreased in Wales in recent years, it remains a significant and expensive problem.

"The Welsh Government is taking action to reduce this costly problem and the Minister is asking people to have their say on the new draft strategy, 'A Fly-tipping Free Wales'," Mr Davies said.

"Fly-tipping is a crime that spoils our neighbourhoods and has a big impact on our local communities. It

also poses a threat to people and wildlife as it spreads disease, pollutes the environment, contaminates soil and can make areas more liable to flooding. This is completely unacceptable.

"The new draft strategy sets out how the Welsh Government will work in partnership with organisations including Natural Resources Wales, the police, fire service, housing associations and local authorities to reduce incidences of fly-tipping.

"It also proposes that the reduction in fly-tipping should be achieved through a combination of measures, including business engagement, education, community action, publicity campaigns and enforcement including fines of up to £50,000 and prison sentences."

Bridgend's Rory bucks trend with the Scarlets

BRIDGEND-born Rory Pitman has reversed the Welsh 'player drain' by joining the 'Scarlets' back row unit at No 8.

Aged 24, the Ospreys' academy graduate and product of Bridgend RFC, represented Wales at under-16, under-18 and under-20 and has regional experience with Ospreys and Glasgow Warriors.

He joined London Wasps for the 2013-14 season, after spells with Ospreys, Glasgow and Rotherham Titans as well as 25 appearances for Swansea RFC in 2010-11 where he scored five tries.

Pitman also has New Zealand provincial experience having had a spell with Taranaki during the summer of 2009.

The 6ft 5in number 8 will make a return to Wales from London Wasps where he made five appearances for Dai Young's side.

Vale-based Scarlets head coach Simon Easterby said: "We're pleased to welcome

Rory to the Scarlets as he makes a return home to Wales.

"He is a strong ball-carrying number 8 but is still very young for a back-row forward and we believe he brings with him quality attributes that will help strengthen the pack for next season."

Rory said: "I'm really looking forward to joining the Scarlets and fighting for a starting place in the team."

"I've been really impressed with the pack this season and hope that I can play a part in that going forward."

"An injury early on last season hampered my time with Wasps and I'm now excited to get a good pre-season under my belt and showing what I have to offer."

"It's an honour to have been given this opportunity and it's one I'm really looking forward to," he added.

ST ATHAN LADIES RELAX THE PLAY FAIR RULES!



St Athan Ladies after playing 'Mayhem'.

ON the last day of May, 'Mayhem' came to St Athan Golf Club ladies' section with a competition organised to support the ladies' league team.

Each lady had one 'Gotcha' where she could disrupt an opponent's shot in any reasonable manner and could purchase 'Mulligans' which enable a bad shot to be retaken without penalty.

The fun competition ended with a win for Michelle Bligh, with Liz Thomas runner-up.

The ladies' league team is doing well this season and on June 20, a team of ladies will be representing the club in the final of the Welsh Ladies Open

Championship, and we wish them the best of luck.

The annual ladies past captains' competition took place last week, and the nine-hole competition was followed by a dinner

where the players were joined by past captains dating back as far as 30 years.

Jenny Young, the current lady captain, welcomed everyone and presented the prize for the competition to Janet Davies.

The summer season's competitions are now well under way and we welcome new members to join our friendly club.

RMJ

VALE RESORT SET TO WELCOME GOLF GREATS

The Vale Resort is gearing up to welcome some of the greatest names in golf as official associate hotel of the 'Senior Open Championship Presented by Rolex', which takes place from July 24 to 27.

A host of golfing icons including Ryder Cup stars and Major winners will be staying at the resort for the duration of the prestigious championship – the first Senior Major to be held in Wales.

Those who have already confirmed their places in the field include current

US Ryder Cup Captain and eight-time Major winner, Tom Watson, European 2010 Ryder Cup Captain, Colin Montgomerie; two-time Masters Champion, Bernhard Langer, and the winner of the recent Spanish Open, Miguel Angel Jiménez, who became the first person aged 50 to win on the main European Tour.

American Mark Wiebe will defend the title he won at Royal Birkdale in 2013.

For more information visit senioropengolf.com or call 0800 0232557.

Bryony gets an England call-up!



COWBRIDGE 6th former Bryony Roberts has been selected to play for the England senior women's ice hockey team in Finland this summer.

Aged just 16, Bryony is the youngest player selected, as well as the only player from Wales. Bryony has also been invited to trial for the GB under-18 girls' team. Trials begin in July.

Bryony has played ice hockey for seven years, and currently plays as a forward (and the only

girl) in the Cardiff Junior Devils under-18 boys' team, and the Cardiff Comets women's team.

She lived in Canada for two years, playing for the North Bay Ice Boltz A team in northern Ontario, and returned to Cowbridge last year.

Bryony is currently studying 'A' level Maths, Biology and Psychology, and plans to study Psychology at university.

Bryony will travel with the England team to Kisakallio, Finland in August.

LR

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CHURCH ROAD, BARRY

- 4 storey building comprising:
- 2 bedroom basement flat with large garden to rear
- 3 bedroom 2nd & 3rd floor maisonette
- Retail unit (currently occupied by hairdresser)
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£130,000



LOWER PYKE STREET, BARRY

- A well presented 2 bedroom Victorian bay fronted property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed throughout
- Low maintenance garden to front & rear
- Ideal first time purchase
- Offered freehold

£114,950



LOWER PYKE STREET, BARRY

- Newly refurbished 3 bedroom end terrace in good central location
- Gas central heating & double glazed throughout
- Included within the Castletand Regeneration Scheme
- Secure gated rear lane access
- Offered freehold with no chain

£119,950



LOMBARD GRANGE, BARRY

- 2 bedroom purpose built 1st floor flat
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Communal garden to front & rear
- Well presented throughout
- Offered leasehold & an ideal investment opportunity

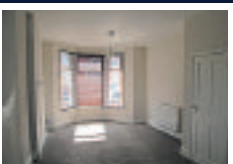
£89,500



EVERARD STREET, BARRY

- Newly decorated 3 bedroom end terrace in a central location
- Gas central heating and double glazed
- Detached garage to the rear
- Offered with no chain
- Freehold

£125,000



LLAN FARM, BARRY

- Extended 5 bedroom detached property dating back to approx 1700's
- Woodlands style grounds, set in around 1/3 of an acre
- Off road parking with large double garage
- Set in quiet semi rural location
- Scope to extend (subject to planning)

£275,000



ELM GROVE, BARRY

- 3 bedroom semi detached bungalow in quiet location
- Gas central heating & double glazed throughout
- Recently installed new fitted kitchen
- In need of re-decoration to most rooms
- Spacious property set in very good sized grounds

£139,950



CAREW CLOSE, BARRY

- Well presented 3 bedroom semi detached property in quiet cul-de-sac location
- Gas central heating & double glazed throughout
- Off road parking to front
- Would make ideal first time purchase
- Offered freehold with no chain

£110,000



BRYN AWEL, BUTRILLS ROAD, BARRY

- A 4 bedroom detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Detached garage & driveway
- Spacious gardens
- Views across Bristol channel

£235,000



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- **Broad Street, Barry.** 2 Bedroom 1st floor flat, GCH, DG. Unfurnished £425pcm
- **Abingdon Street, Barry.** 2 Bedroom Terrace, GCH, DG. Unfurnished £550pcm
- **Coutenay Road, Barry.** 3 bedroom maisonette, GCH, DG. Unfurnished £450pcm

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 Four bedroom detached family home in sought after village of Bonvilston with excellent transport links to Cardiff & Cowbridge. EPC Rating-C



Boverton **£375,000**
 Three bedroom detached period property in sought after village of Boverton. Host of period features, must be viewed. EPC Rating-E



Penmark **£435,000**
 Four double bedroom detached family home in the sought after village of Penmark. Viewing recommended. EPC Rating-D



Cowbridge **£285,000**
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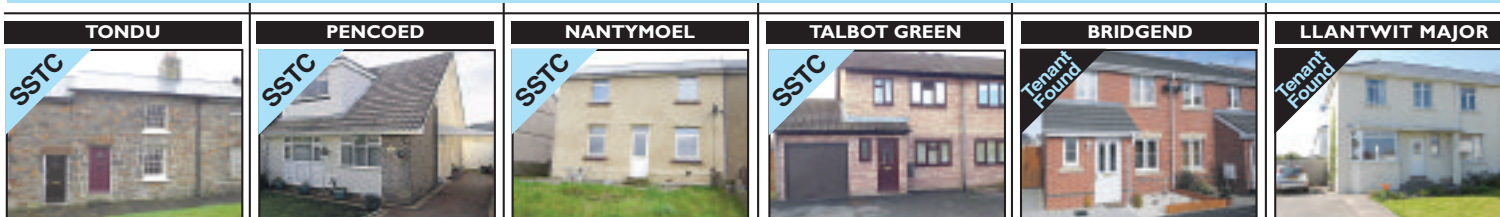
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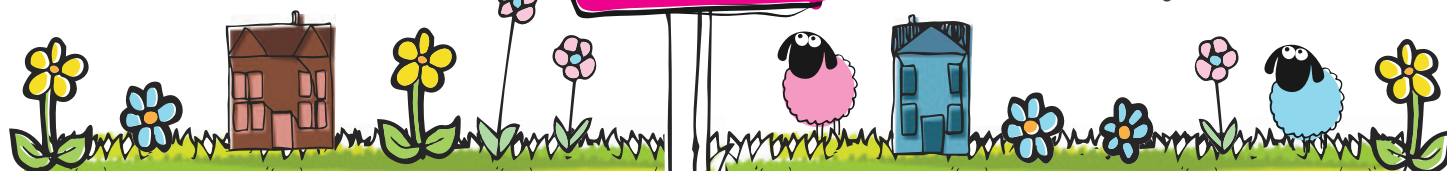
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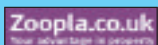
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LYCIANDA HOUSE, BARRY
 Ground floor apartment, 2 bedrooms, study (previously en suite), lounge & separate kitchen, spacious bathroom, far reaching sea views, allocated parking. EPC-C.
£99,950



BARRY ROAD, BARRY
 Semi detached, living opening to dining room, sun lounge overlooking rear, kitchen - integrated appliances, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, garden, decked sun terrace, side access. EPC-D.
£174,950



THE PARADE, BARRY
 Detached bungalow, sought after area, modern fitted kitchen, living room, 3 bedrooms, replacement shower room, ample driveway, garage. EPC-F.
£259,950



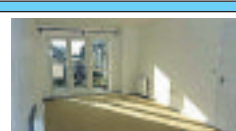
STATION STREET, BARRY
 Mid terraced traditional, 4 bedrooms, through living room, separate dining room, 1st floor bathroom, town centre location, no chain. EPC-D.
£119,950



ST FAGANS AVENUE, BARRY
 Refurbished semi detached, living room, replacement kitchen/breakfast, 2 bedrooms, replacement bathroom suite, spacious plot, level garden, driveway, no chain. EPC-D.
£134,950



TY CAPSTAN, BARRY
 Modern apartment, Redrow constructed, 2nd floor: 2 bedrooms, master ensuite, balcony overlooking front, designated parking, no chain. EPC-B.
£89,950



CHARLES PLACE, BARRY
 End of terraced period property, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, utility, shower room, 6/7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sea views from front elevation, garage, enclosed garden, no chain. ER-E.
£259,950



CANON STREET, BARRY
 End of terraced, traditional dwelling, living room, through dining room, 1st floor: 3 double bedrooms, bathroom. 2nd floor: further bedroom, patio, rear garden, garage, no chain. EPC-E.
£189,950



MURLANDE WAY, RHOOSE
 4 bedrooms, modern detached, living room, sitting, dining room, conservatory, ensuite shower to master, private enclosed garden backing onto park, garage, no chain.
£219,950



MURLANDE WAY, RHOOSE
 Semi detached, corner positioned, kitchen overlooking front, living room with spiral stairs, 2 double bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, garage/driveway, no chain, in need of modernising. EPC-E.
£114,950



WHITTON CLOSE, RHOOSE
 Semi detached bungalow, well presented, corner positioned, 2 reception rooms, 2 conservatories, garage/parking, no chain. EPC-D.
£179,950



THE Knap, BARRY
 Semi detached, in need of modernisation, original features remaining, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, wc cloakroom, spacious plot ideal for extending, double gates. EPC-D.
£259,950



ROMILLY PARK ROAD, BARRY
 Edwardian semi detached, 4 reception rooms, 3 storey, 5 bedrooms, far reaching sea views, utility, pantry, cloakroom to ground floor, family bathroom, double garage. EPC-E.
£359,950



WESTWARD RISE, BARRY
 5 bedroom detached, modern property, living room, dining room, breakfast/kitchen, 2 ensuite & additional family bathroom, no chain, double driveway. EPC-D.
£335,000



PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY
 Spacious detached, lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, 4 bedrooms & master ensuite, double garage, private enclosed garden. ER-D.
£399,950



GREENACRES, BARRY
 Ideally positioned, living room, sitting room (converted garage), open plan replacement kitchen/diner, utility room - wc cloakroom, 4 bedrooms (ensuite), family bathroom, driveway, garden. EPC-D.
£225,000



RUTLAND CLOSE, BARRY
 Detached dwelling, well presented, living room, dining room, wc cloak, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, longer than average driveway. EPC-C.
£189,950



CORNWALL RISE, BARRY
 Elevated bungalow, 3 bedrooms, replacement modern kitchen, replacement bathroom, L shaped living room, versatile living, driveway, garage. EPC-E.
£204,950



ROMILLY ROAD, BARRY
 Mid terraced traditional, living/dining, kitchen-utility area, sitting room, stairs to attic/hobby area, Velux window, to the rear: outbuilding leading to Park Crescent, no chain. EPC-E.
£192,500



CARN Y EBOL, BARRY
 Modern detached, 3/4 bedrooms, living room, dining room, converted garage, master with ensuite, wc cloakroom, low maintenance garden, driveway providing parking. EPC-D.
£190,000



COOK ROAD, BARRY
 Ideally positioned, detached dwelling, 2 reception rooms, integral garage, longer than average driveway, cul de sac, no chain. EPC-D.
£169,950



GREENACRES, BARRY
 Modern semi detached, 3 bedrooms, cul de sac position, living room opening into conservatory, integral garage, enclosed level rear garden, UPVC D/G, no chain. EPC-D.
£155,000



COURT ROAD, BARRY
 Spacious traditional, near shops, schools, through living room, 23ft fitted kitchen/breakfast, 5 bedrooms, 1st floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden. EPC-E.
£154,750



OLD MILL ROAD, BARRY
 3 bedrooms, elevated semi detached, living/dining room, fitted kitchen, minutes walk to train station, UPVC DG-GCH via combi. EPC-D.
£134,950



COLCOT ROAD, BARRY
 Extended dwelling, living room, dining room opening to sitting area, fitted kitchen/breakfast, wc cloakroom, 4 bedrooms & dressing/study, family bathroom, garden, garage. EPC-C.
£289,950



BLACKBERRY DRIVE, BARRY
 Modern detached, 4 bedroom, living/dining room, kitchen/breakfast, wc cloakroom, driveway/parking, integral garage, larger than average patio, enclosed garden. EPC-D.
£206,950



BLACKBERRY DRIVE, BARRY
 Showhome presented, modern detached, living/dining room, fitted kitchen, enclosed garden, hot tub to remain, paved driveway/garage. EPC-D.
£219,950



DAVID DAVIES COURT, BARRY
 2 bedrooms, ground floor apartment, 70% ownership with 30% Wales & West, French door opening to garden, parking/communal entry, laundry room, no chain.
£80,000



HEOL ERYR MOR, BARRY
 Modern end of terraced, 2 bedrooms, ensuite to master, living room, kitchen/breakfast, conservatory, enclosed rear garden, garage/driveway. EPC-C.
£143,000



ARTHUR STREET, BARRY
 2 bedrooms, coach house, living room, kitchen overlooking rear, family bathroom, allocated parking, enclosed garden, no chain. EPC-C.
£109,950



KINGSLAND CRESCENT, BARRY
 1 bedroomed ground floor apartment, placed in a period building, open plan living/kitchen, integrated appliances, family bathroom, communal garden. EPC-D.
£69,950



LOWER FARM COURT, RHOOSE
 Spacious family detached, 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, master ensuite, dressing area, double garage, ample parking, cul de sac position. EPC-D.
£379,950



LON CEFN MABLY, RHOOSE
 Semi detached bungalow, cul de sac position, 2 double bedrooms, kitchen/dining area, replacement modern wet room, ideal plot to extend, GCH UPVC/DG, no chain. ER-E.
£189,950

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 18 June 2014

■ Vale of Glamorgan Council
 ■ Hafod Housing Association
 ■ Newydd Housing Association
 ■ United Welsh
 ■ Wales and West Housing Association



To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

or apply in writing to:

Vale of Glamorgan Council

Visible Services and Housing

Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or

Newydd Housing Association

121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

ARTHUR DAVIS COURT, BARRY



H4U Reference 1112498

Suitable for a single person over 55 - no pets

- Studio apartment (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Scheme coordinator on site
- Communal door and gardens

Rent £104.46 per week including service charge

CATHERINE MEAZEY, PENARTH



H4U Reference 237794

Suitable for a single person over 40

- Studio apartment
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £91.12 per week including water charge

DOWNNS VIEW, ABERTHIN



H4U Reference 230069

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Two-bedroom flat
- Upstairs
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £88.13 per week including water charge

GATEHOLM CLOSE, BARRY



H4U Reference 1118010

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £87.90 per week

IRVING PLACE, BARRY



H4U Reference 213152

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £85.67 per week including water charge

JENNER ROAD, BARRY



H4U Reference 213499

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Three-bedroom flat
- Upstairs
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £85.38 per week including water charge

LLANMAES ROAD, LLANTWIT MAJOR



H4U Reference 235459

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £105.56 per week including water charge

MASEFIELD ROAD, PENARTH



H4U Reference 241006

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £108.49 per week including water charge

OAK COURT, PENARTH



H4U Reference 1049281

Suit for single person or couple over 60 (55 with medical need)

- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Scheme manager and alarm

Rent £111.27 per week

PEARSE CLOSE, PENARTH (PHASE 2)



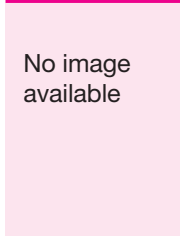
H4U Reference 1118167

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Two-bedroom houses (two)
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £92.07 per week

PEARSE CLOSE, PENARTH (PHASE 2)



No image available

H4U Reference 1118178

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Three-bedroom houses (two)
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £93.66 per week

SHELLEY CRESCENT, BARRY



H4U Reference 223420

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement - no pets

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £100.97 per week including water charges

ST GOVANS CLOSE, BARRY



H4U Reference 224876

Suitable for a single person or couple - no pets

- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £82.26 per week including water charges

TENNYSON ROAD, BARRY



H4U Reference 251661

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £105.67 per week including water charges

Are you a council tenant who has been affected by the bedroom tax?

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If so, call our Money Advice Line on 01446 709312 for constructive, impartial advice.

This number is not a bidding line for properties in this advert.

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You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.

When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.

All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.

Newydd is a charitable housing association.

Newly-refurbished home for rent – Dale Court, Barry

United Welsh Housing Association, in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council have completed the full refurbishment of this long-term empty property and this three-bedroom house, located in a popular part of Barry, is now available for rent.

This home is suitable for a family meeting the minimum occupancy requirement. It comprises:

- three-bedrooms;
- fully-modernised kitchen;
- living room and kitchen diner;
- bathroom and separate WC upstairs; and
- front and rear gardens.

Rent will be £120.00 per week and no bond is required.

How to apply

Call the Homes4U hotline on 01446 709840 by 18 June 2014 you are interested in renting this high-quality affordable home.

If you are the owner of an empty property, and require any information or advice on how to bring the property back into use, contact the Council's Empty Property Officer on 01446 709802.



Would you like housing advice and assistance but can't get to the Civic Offices in Barry?

We're bringing the Housing Advice service out into the Vale to an area near you very soon...

Wednesday 25 June 2014	Llantwit Major – Filco's car park	10:00am to 2:00pm
Tuesday 1 July 2014	Dinas Powys – Highwalls Road	10:00am to 2:00pm
Wednesday 9 July 2014	St Brides Major – Fox and Hounds car park	10:00am to 2:00pm
Tuesday 15 July 2014	Waitrose car park	10:00am to 2:00pm

Come and meet your Housing Advice Team and Rural Housing Enabler. We'll be on hand to give advice, information and support on all things housing-related over a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.

If you can't make it to our roadshows, get in touch with us by phone on 01446 709567 or by e-mail at housingadvice@valeofglamorgan.go.uk.



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Quiet Close

£180,000

tbc



Rectory Court, Llanmaes, Llantwit Major
5 Bedrooms, 3 Receptions
Double Garage

£445,000

D67



Harding Close, Llantwit Major
4 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
Private Rear

£220,000

C69



Chris Davies

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Lets!

Meadowcroft, Rhoose.
One Bed, Ground Floor, Electric Heating.
D68 - £395 PCM

Bullfinch Road, St Athan.
Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower,
GCH. D59 - £495 PCM

Lime Grove, St Athan
Three Bedrooms, Conservatory
Enclosed Rear Garden
D64 - £525 PCM

Flemingston Road, St Athan
Three Bedrooms, Kitchen/Diner,
Enclosed Rear Garden
D64 - £525 PCM

High Street, Barry
Completely refurbished
Modern Kitchen, Shower
C74 - £550 PCM

Fonmon Park Road, Rhoose
Two Bed, Oven & Hob, Rear Garden
C73 - £550 PCM

Heol Ger-Y-Felin, Llantwit Major
Two Double Bedrooms,
Fitted Kitchen, Enclosed Garden
D61 - £550 PCM

Cwrt Y Cadno, Llantwit Major.
Two Bedrooms, Conservatory, Driveway.
C70 - £575 PCM

Meadowcroft, Rhoose
Two Bedrooms, Quiet Location,
Enclosed Rear Garden
£575 PCM

Queen Street, Barry.
West End Location, Three Bedrooms,
Shower. E49 - £595 PCM

Showle Acre, Rhoose
Three Bedrooms, Lounge/Dining Room
Enclosed Rear Garden
C73 - £650 PCM

Willowbrook Gardens, St Mellons, Cardiff
Three Bed, Kitchen/Diner,
Enclosed Garden
C77 - £695 PCM

Cambrian Avenue, Llantwit Major
Three Bedrooms, Popular Location,
Driveway and Garage
D68 - £750 PCM

Speedwell Drive, Rhoose
Four Bedrooms, Exceptional Size Garden,
Detached Double Garage
D66 - £975 PCM

St Johns Hill, St Athan.
Four Bedrooms, Detached, En Suite.
E64 - £995 PCM

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£335,000

D68



Glebeland Place, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Family Home
62ft Rear Garden

£125,000

D61



Llys Dwynwen Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Corner Position
Select Development

£209,995

C70



Elm Grove, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Kitchen/Diner
No Chain

£94,950

E50



Llys Dwynwen, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Garage
Southerly Rear

£182,500

C69



Llantwit Garden Close, St Athan,
3 Bedrooms
Conservatory
Garage

£159,950

D59



Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms
Garage
Private Garden

£224,950

E52



Boverton Brook, Boverton
4 Bedrooms
Conservatory
Sought After Location

£349,950

E48



Partridge Road, St Athan
2 Bedrooms
No Chain
Great Open Views

£95,000

tbc



Monmouth Way, Boverton
4 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
Garage

£210,000

C72



Millands Caravan Park, Llanmaes
2 Bedrooms, GCH Combi
Rural Location

£84,950

tbc



Tresilian Close, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Garage
Sought after location

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C59

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For further information contact:

Paul on freephone 0800 135 7503
or email spain@chris-davies.co.uk



Roberts Close, St Athan
4 Bedrooms
Rural Views
20' Sitting Room

£164,950

F38



Fairfield Rise, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
132' Garden
Detached Annex

£300,000

D56



Byron Court, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms
1st Floor Retirement Flat
Scheme Manager

£89,950

C78



Byron Court, Llantwit Major
1 Bedroom
uPVC + Combi
1st Floor Flat

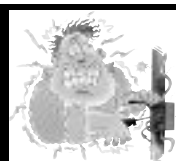
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C80



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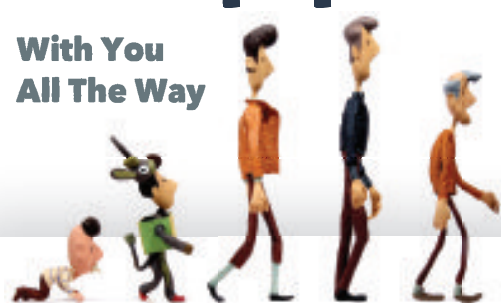
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Llantwit duo box clever to force wins

TWO boxers from Llantwit Major ABC took part in a show recently, when youth prospect Ryan Hughes made it two out of two in a week.

He beat Owen Lewis from St Josephs ABC on May 24 in Newport and Cory Price of Bridgend ABC on Friday, May 30 in Caerphilly.

The show, hosted by Penaber ABC, saw some very competitive bouts, and Ryan's was no exception.

He started fast, using his long jab to full effect, scoring with good clean shots as Price tried to use his 2kg weight advantage to force his way forwards.

Ryan produced his best performance to date by using all of his skills to keep his tough opponent away. He won the first two rounds clearly, the third saw him tire a bit, allowing Price to get up close and make the third round



Nicky Cox and Ryan Hughes.

very close.

The judges awarded the victory to the Llantwit boxer on a majority decision which took his record to seven wins from 10 bouts.

Next on was light heavyweight Nicky Cox of St Athan, who was boxing Jason Campbell of Penaber ABC. This was the second time the two boxers had met; the first was a points win for Cox. This time, Nicky decided to start faster and take control from the start, using three and four punch combinations.

Campbell was never allowed to get into the bout, but did connect with a good right hand. That's when Nicky decided enough was enough!

In the second round, he went into with all guns blazing.

He caught Campbell with a few heavy flurries forcing referee Tony Collins to stop the bout after the Penaber lad's legs had gone, and he was unable to continue.

MD

Nick's Tiverton winner

NICK Williams, riding Mr M J McMahon's five-year-old bay gelding Kylemore Lough, landed the open maiden race at the Tiverton Stagbouds Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Bratton Down last Sunday.

The lightly raced Kylemore Lough, who is qualified with the Tredegar Farmers Hunt, is trained by Williams at Ogmere-by-Sea and went off a 7-2 chance.

One of Wales' most prolific point-to-pointers, Findlay's Find, who earlier this season won the classic Lady Dudley Cup at the Worcestershire

Hunt, could only manage third place in the men's open race.

LONG TRIP PAYS OFF

Falcarragh, trained by Tim Vaughan in the Vale, made the long trip to Perth in Scotland last weekend and landed Sunday's Subsea Novices' Chase.

Well ridden by Richard Johnson, seven-year-old Falcarragh, a 5-1 chance, scored by one-and-a-half lengths from the strongly fancied Midnight Game, partnered by champion jockey A P Mc Coy.

BRIAN LEE

THE VALE'S WINNING RUN ENDS

VALE 1sts' winning run came to an end in disappointing fashion at Ponthir.

On a rain affected day when few fixtures escaped the poor weather, this match was reduced to 39 overs per side following a delayed start with parts of the outfield extremely wet.

Having lost the toss it came as no surprise that Vale were asked to bat in the damp conditions. Vale made slow progress before losing JP Davies with the score on 19 and two further wickets fell by the time the score had reached 34.

Stand-in skipper Paul Sheppard and Matthew Gilbert rallied and put together a 30 run partnership before Sheppard was caught at mid wicket for 18.

With Gilbert playing the anchor role another two quick wickets fell as Vale tried to accelerate the run rate which left the score at 75 for 6 after 26 overs.

Mark Francis joined Gilbert and these two put on the highest partnership of the innings 36 to take Vale past the hundred. Francis acting as the aggressor hit two sixes in a quick fire 23 but departed stumped in the 34th over.

Gilbert resistance was finally broken in the 37th over as he was last man out for 31 leaving

Vale 132 all out. G Aolam's off spin returned fine figures of 6-29 off eight overs for Ponthir.

With the ground drying and a small total to defend Vale needed to start well but ultimately turned in a poor bowling and fielding performance. Vale conceded 37 extras including 31 wides and combined with a number of fielding errors, were the architects of their own downfall.

However, Vale did manage to pick up three bowling points thanks to taking four wickets. Upham assisted by Billy Yates at square leg, Francis hitting the timbers, Yates inducing an edge to Sheppard at slip and the cool head of Gilbert engineering a run out.

However, opening bat Sanetti (41) and number 4 A Barkit (31) laid the foundation for Ponthir to reach their target without ever looking in danger of losing.

Vale's bowling figures were O Pike 5-1-17-0, D Upham 8-2-35-1, M Francis 3-0-13-1, JJ Davies 7-5-1-32-0 and B Yates 7-0-30-1.

Vale will need to improve greatly from this showing when they take on Cardiff Ghyrnanna at Cornthorn this week to keep their promotion hopes on track.

MF

A presentation caps Gwennan's success!



IT was a very proud moment the Welsh national squad) and for Llantwit Major footballer, Jayne Ludlow (under-16s Gwennan Davies, when she Welsh coach) at St Pierre, was presented with her under-16 School Girls Welsh cap by Chris Coleman (manager of fixtures during the 2012-2013 season).

The cap represented Gwennan's participation in five international fixtures during the 2012-2013 season.

The Cottrell Park ladies enjoy a glamorous day!

AFTER months of planning the day finally arrived; 35 ladies arrived on time at the clubhouse to be driven to the Vale Golf Club in Bishampton, Worcestershire.

The weather looked promising but, alas, by the time we stood on the first tee it had changed to rain. Luckily we had little wind and our umbrellas were a blessing. The course was well received by the ladies and would have been ideal in better conditions.

An enthusiastic bunch completed the course, for which the captain was

very grateful, and after what seemed an age everyone returned to the clubhouse.

Many bedraggled ladies entered the changing room but, as if by magic, 35 ladies were transformed into glamorous 'film stars'! After an enjoyable meal the presentations took place. Helen Little took the title of Miss Button with a score of 33 points and the runner-up was Jenny Knott with 31 points.

The team competition was won by Helen Little, Tina Morgan and Jen Thomas. The longest

drive 0-26 division was shared by Carole Duncanson and Sandra Collin (we couldn't split them) and the 27-36 division was won by Lorraine Pointon-Bell. Nearest the pin was won by Helen Little, congratulations Helen. A good day's golfing under difficult conditions.

The journey home went like a dream and we are planning to enter several ladies into Britain's Got Talent next year!

Many thanks ladies, looking forward to the next event already!

JC

Bowlers edge a tense encounter

LLANTWIT MAJOR bowlers played their first league match of the season on Saturday when they visited Fairoak (Cardiff); in a very tense ending, Llantwit came away with a one shot win.

Steve Booker's rink drew 17-17. Llantwit held the lead right up to the last end with Fairoak winning the last two ends to tie the game. This was all down to Fairoak skip who, end after end, when Llantwit were holding a number of shots, came in with his last bowl to either cut down or win the end.

Graham Jones' rink lost 18-34; Llantwit were up against from the start being 13 shots down after six ends. Llantwit kept plugging away, winning a number of ends to reduce the deficit.

Neville Young's rink won 31-6; Llantwit were ahead by 15 shots after

only eight ends, as the rink of John Ball, Tony Thomas, and captain Eric Sparks combined well, with one of them putting in a good bowl on each end to deny Fairoak when they were holding shot; Llantwit won all but four ends.

Arthur Hayes rink lost 13-22. Llantwit won the first end then lost the next six ends, then came back, scoring six shots over the next three ends.

With all the other rinks having finished the match hung on a knife edge; Llantwit scored one on the penultimate end to make the scores level.

On the final end Llantwit's lead Kyle Garrison put in a fine bowl which Fairoak could not match to give Llantwit a one shot win overall.

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DAN IS THE MAN AT THE 'HOME OF GOLF'!

The monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held recently at Cottrell Park Golf Club, a venue rapidly becoming recognised by many as the true 'home of golf'.

Played on the rapidly maturing Button course with its magnificent 360 degree views overlooking the award winning village of Pendoylan and up to the Brecon Beacons in the north, Avon and the second Severn crossing to the east, Somerset and Devon coastline to the south and beautiful Lillyput woods to the west, followed with a superb evening meal, it is not surprising to report those in attendance

thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Competing for the Shrievel Trophy, presented to the society by the late Mr Islwyn Rees to commemorate his time as High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, just one shot separated the first three places, although it was not surprising to see the name of Dan Jarvis at the top of the leaderboard at the conclusion of play.

Playing on a course that he looks after on a daily basis as a green keeper, and which incidentally was in superb condition, Dan's superior back nine was good enough to see off the challenge of Dai John both finishing with a net 73.

Mention must be made of the supreme effort of Dai John in finishing runner up as his lack of understanding and desire

for playing medal rounds is well documented. In third place with a net 73 was Mike Lee followed in fourth place with a net 79 by Aubrey Bowen, who recently celebrated spending 50 golden years with his adored wife Maureen.

Nearest the pin on the Llanerch Vineyard and Restaurant-sponsored par 3 holes were John Thomas, Aubrey Bowen, Dan Jarvis and Robbie Llewellyn, who was making his debut as a society member, following his elevation from the PIGS Golf Society.

The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge-sponsored longest drive on the 14th hole was won by Dan Jarvis, and Dai John returned home with the Premier Turf-sponsored bottle of whiskey when correctly guessing 35 balls would rest in peace spread over this peaceful location. In the section for guests, John Thomas finished just ahead of Ron Chamberlain.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 27, when members will gather for an early departure to Minchinhampton to compete for the Payton, Jewell & Caine's International Classic trophy, with prizes supplied by sponsor Mr John Caines.

Finally, congratulations to two young golfers with

strong family connections to the Farmers' Society, and both former junior members of Cottrell Park Golf Club.

Katie Bradbury, grand-daughter of life member Gwyn Evans, whose idea back in 1985 resulted in the formation of the society, recently became the Welsh ladies' matchplay champion, and also to Rhidian Harris, son of society treasurer David Harris.

After driving the green on the famous 310 yard, par 4 10th hole on the Brabazon course at The Belfry, Rhidian sank a putt from 35 feet to

record an amazing eagle to emulate the great but sadly now departed Seve Ballesteros, who will long be remembered for his famous birdie at the same hole during the 1989 Ryder Cup.

Quarterfinal draw for The Nipper Jewell Knock Out Trophy -

Dan Jarvis (7) v Gareth Perkins (17); Geraint Davies (13) v Griff Morgan (13); Keith Davies (16) v Keith James (15); Mike Lee (14) v Chris Rooney (14). Matches to be played by June 27.

T.McC



Winning golfers John Thomas and Dan Jarvis with sponsor Mark Rees and society captain Mike King.

Home Munro loss for Cadoxton bowlers

ON a very wet evening, a Munro Cup match was played at Cadoxton against Penarth.

The outcome was a win for the visitors with the only success for the home side skipped by Derek Brook.

Scores: G Powell, I Heppenstall, P Swannick, H Craven 5-25 P Davies, N Thomas, B Lewis, D Dalby; S Clements, A Field, R Byrne, I Robertson 5-27 M England, R Birkby, B Hill, D Clements; A Prince, J Ferguson, G Davies, D Brook 13-9 G Rosser, D Edwards, G Thomas, N Chandler; E Heppenstall, J Stacey, R Byrne, J Jones 10-21 B Lansly, R Grant, H Trow, C Grant. Final score: 33-82.

Cadoxton v Ystrad Mynach - ML4 Cadoxton were the hosts

to Ystrad Mynach, on a fine afternoon, for the opening game in a ML4. The outcome was a narrow defeat with two winning rinks and two losing.

Unfortunately Howard Craven became ill halfway through the game and had to finish playing.

As there were no available reserves to replace him the game finished with the away side holding a seven-shot advantage.

Don Kuhnell's rink were eight shots down without scoring after four ends. However a four on the next brought them back into the game and on the 10th end they went one shot in front.

They lost the next two ends but then took over, completing

the game without conceding another shot.

Kelvin Chedgzy trailed for most of the game on his rink. They did briefly take the lead on the 13th end by one shot, but relinquished it by losing the next three.

Nevertheless they fought their way back with four wins out of the five last ends, including a six on the penultimate end to claim another two points.

John Jones had a terrible time on his rink. With the scores tied after six ends, the next 11 were lost.

A mini recovery of three winning ends brought them to within one shot of the match aggregate, but sadly a three was conceded to lose the match overall by four shots.

Scores: R Cole, I Robertson, D Brook, H Craven 9-16; P

Swannick, G Garland, P Ellis, K Chedgzy 24-18; J Stacey, D Evans, G Davies, D Kuhnell 26-12; D Tuck, L Davies, D Jeffries, J Jones 8-25. Final score: 67-71.

Cadoxton 'A' v Ely - ML5

Cadoxton 'A' side travelled to Cardiff for this ML5 match against Ely with a very inexperienced side, and four players short.

Playing with a man short on each rink they were well beaten.

Scores: S Clements, A Prince, A Turner 3-39; E Heppenstall, K McMahon, D Fanning 3-34; R Byrne, I Heppenstall, D Hammond 12-32; A Field, J Ferguson, A Carpenter 7-31. Final score: 25-136.

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DAVID'S DELIGHT AT DINAS!

ON a glorious sunny evening, a new winner of the Spire-sponsored Dinas Powis Open emerged when David Harding of Penylan B.C. overcame two times previous winner Neil Collett of St Fagans B.C. in a pulsating final, 21-20.

The semi-finals set the scene for an evening of high quality bowling, David Harding overcoming the challenge of Dinas Powis bowler Clive Todd 21-13 in a fascinating match, which saw Todd leading 13-5 after 12 ends only to be overhauled at 18 ends. Harding went on to win by 21 shots to 13.

In the other semi-final Neil Collett played Andrew Jones of the Merthyr West End Bowling Club. Collett went ahead early on and was never overhauled by Jones.

This was despite Jones coming back from a 7-14 deficit to reach 13-14 after 17 ends. Collett eventually eased to a 21-14 win to secure his place in the final.

The spectators were treated to 23 ends of high class bowling and the

result could have gone either way, but Harding just managed to cross the finishing line in one of the closest fought finals in recent years.

It was Harding who made the early start with some fine drawing bowls, edging in front at six shots to two after five ends. In the next five ends he continued his early form to lead 11 shots to 4.

As expected, Collett found his form, and with some great bowling drew level after 18 ends, at 15 shots each.

Harding picked up an excellent four on the 20th end to lead 20-15. Not to be outdone, Collett then scored a 2 and a 3 to draw level at 20-20.

In the final end Harding's drawing bowl proved to be decisive and he deservedly won the game and with it the coveted Welsh Open Championship.

Dinas Powis Bowling Club is as always grateful to Spire Cardiff Hospital for their continued support of this prestigious tournament and look forward to many more years of partnership.

AD

Sully Centurions exit Welsh Cup

AFTER seeing both first and second XI matches rained off on Saturday, Sully Centurions hosted Pentwyn CC in a rearranged Welsh Cup match on Sunday that was affected by a long delay for rain towards the end of the Pentwyn innings.

The visitors batted first and had reached 10 when Jake Griffith struck twice in the 5th over. First Tom Pascoe and then wicket keeper Ben Spear held onto catches to dismiss both openers.

Nathan Cuddihy continued the excellent work with the wickets of Harries (LBW) and Beacham (brilliantly caught by Tom Davies) to leave Pentwyn on 28 for 4.

Nick Jones chipped in with another wicket, bowling White for 15 before skipper Lloyd Bruce had Jones caught by James Haswell for a duck.

But Hancock (46 not out) and Wall (29) put on 59 for the seventh wicket – giving Pentwyn some

much needed stability. Haswell trapped Danniell LBW for 0 and Pavel took the wickets of Jones and Court to leave the score on 136 for 9 in the 38th over when the heavens opened and play was suspended.

The last wicket also went to Pavel, coming only two balls after the resumption to leave Centurions with a target of 137.

Openers Pavel and Owain Sullivan started very well, Pavel surviving a first ball LBW appeal to reach 26 when he was bowled by Jones with the score on 39.

Nick Jones went without troubling the scorers and Tom Davies also went for 0 and Centurions found themselves on 40 for 3 after 10 overs. Then a huge collapse saw wicket after wicket fall until the innings finally came to an end on 71 in the 23rd over.

So, out of the cup but team spirit remains good and surely it is only a matter of time before the hard work begins to pay off for Centurions.

MF

Vale boy is star performer at ice hockey event



PICTURED: Ben Morgan, Lewis Davis, Sam Smith, Bayley Harewood, Morgan Parsons and Carter Loyde.

THE Cardiff Devils ice hockey club is delighted after a number of its DCF youngsters impressed at the recent EIHA Conference Weekend in Hull.

The conference weekend is an end of season event where regional squads from around the UK compete over three days, showcasing the best junior players in the country at four different age groups.

The Cardiff Devils Juniors were pleased to have six players from the club involved with the South West Conference teams. The following players were selected: Morgan Parsons and Bayley Harewood (under-11s); Ben Morgan, Sam Smith and Carter Lloyd (under-13s); and Lewis Davies (under-15s).

A club spokesman said: "All the boys produced some excellent displays and really flew the Cardiff Devils flag proudly over the three day event."

The under-11s won the final on a penalty shootout, with Bayley Harewood scoring the first penalty, and Morgan Parsons recording two wins in

net on the way to the final.

The under-13s put in some impressive performances, with Carter Lloyd scoring several goals for the team, but they narrowly missed out on a place in the final, finishing third overall.

The under-15s South West team also won their age group, and Lewis Davies again performed well on the big stage, showing himself to be a real netminding prospect for the club in the future.

The spokesman continued: "The club is very proud to confirm that at the end of tournament awards, under-12s player Bayley Harewood was voted onto the under-11s All Star team, and was voted

MVP of the under-11s tournament, after several stunning displays that saw him help lead his team to the final and take that first penalty shot in an exciting final game.

"The Cardiff Devils and DCF would like to congratulate all the players who were selected to represent South West Conference, and would again like to say a huge well done to Bayley Harewood on his awards. We feel that this again shows the talent being developed through the hard work of so many volunteers working for the DCF each week."

Bayley also received the award of 'All Star' at the Sheffield ice hockey tournament on the weekend!

A successful coffee morning for golfers!



THE ladies of Brynhill Golf club organized a successful coffee morning for 61 home and away lady golfers.

Lady captain Carole Bumford and her vice captain, Glynis Gould, and the committee all worked together to make such an enjoyable morning.

Many thanks also to June Sanderson, a

stalwart of these events, Julie the caterer, Cath behind the bar, Ian the greenkeeper, and lastly Arthur the starter.

£1,100 was raised for the charity 'Specialist Hearing Resource Base' at Cogan School. Daniel Downton, grandson of Doug and Carole Allen, came to present the prizes to the winners.

He has attended the unit for two terms and his speech has greatly improved.

Home winners were Shirley Lewis with 21 points, Jan Robertson 19 points and Sue Bounds with 16 points.

Away winners, all from the Vale of Glamorgan, were Dee Watkins 20 points, Rita Howells 17 points and Gill Evans 16 points.

Pictured above are Shirley Lewis, Daniel, Sue Bounds and Jan Robertson.

CH

MILLWOOD BOWLING

MILLWOOD travelled to Birchgrove for their first Division 3 game but were beaten by St Joseph's A by a margin of 71 shots to 78, only picking up four points by virtue of having two winning rinks.

The game was played in some lovely sunshine, though it did threaten with a look of heavy rain to come, but luckily enough it stayed away.

After the first four ends, Millwood were leading by 16-7, but St Joseph's were leading after 10 ends by 25-40.

Millwood then picked up to be trailing by only four shots, 49-53, after the 15th end.

On the final end, St Joseph's A managed to hang on to their lead and won by a margin of seven shots.

The points score was Millwood 4, St Joseph's 'A' 14.

This Saturday Millwood entertain Rummy at home, so let's see if we can improve then. Thanks to St Joseph's for a close fought game.

With Millwood 'A' team winning by a margin of 23 shots, and winning on all four rinks, the home side took the maximum 14 points in the opening game of Division 5 against Barry Central.

It will be intriguing to see how the division ends up with the new format that is now due to take place for the beginning of next season.

All teams will be fighting to gain a good league finish to ensure that they do not drop down too many places.

Well done to Millwood 'A' for the win. Keep it up!

The next league game is away to Rummy 'A'.

Cowbridge ladies have a good week!

IT'S been a good week for Cowbridge Lady Bowlers, with two very good wins.

First they beat Bridgend Municipal in a CCS match at home, winning 62-28, then playing away at Cadoxton in a league match, they had a very good and close win of 51 shots to 48.

In their match against Bridgend Municipal they won on all three rinks, with only the rink of Lynda Wilson, Diane Lloyd, Pat Davey and skip May Jones having a close game, winning 15-14. Diane Purnell, Dorothy Pritchard, Shirley Wilkinson and skip Jan Lewis had a big win, 30-9, and on the rink of Margaret Cooper, Lin Wallace, Sue Flower and skip Anne Jarvis, they won

17-5.

The win away at Cadoxton in the league was a really good win, with the ladies winning on two rinks and only losing on the rink with Helena Snelling, Pat Davey, Joy Woolford and skip Shirley Wilkinson, who lost 14-22.

On the two winning rinks, Lynda Wilson, Dorothy Pritchard, Kay Edwards and skip Joan Bradley won 18-11, and the rink with Diane Purnell, Caryl Davies, Diane Lloyd and skip Sue Flower won 19-15. Well done ladies!

The men's Munro Cup game away at Penarth Windsor was postponed because of heavy rain and will be played later in the season.

In their first league match in Division Two of the Cardiff and District League,

they lost 53-88 away to St Albans, losing on all four rinks, with only the rink of Clive Pritchard, Ron Woolford, Colin Wilson and skip Steve Dickens having a close game, only losing 17-18.

The rink of Mansel Davey, John Jones, Byron Richards and skip Dennis Snelling lost 14-20, and on the rink with Terry Dunsworth, Gerry Lloyd, Brian Williams and skip Norman Wilkinson, they lost 15-22.

However, on the rink of Roger Brewer, Mike Bradley, John Trott and skip Roger Barwick they lost heavily, 7-28.

The next league match is at home to Mountain Ash.

NJW

Good week for Romilly bowlers

BARRY Romilly bowls Club had two games recently, a Munro Cup and an 'A' team SVLA game, but the club side were without a game for the second week running.

Munro Cup
IN the Munro Cup match, Romilly visited Barry Central on Wednesday, May 28, looking to continue their good start to the season. The 'Rom' started strongly and by the fifth end were ahead 20-7.

This trend continued and by the 10th end the score had moved on to 49-17 with the rink of Clive Tapscott, Des Bannister, Cyril Geen and skip Tony Freeman leading 17-0.

Freeman's rink continued to play well and won 25-3, with the rink of Clive Collins taking 16 shots in the last five ends to win comfortably by 32-6.

Mel Newman's rink also won comfortably by 20-8 with Bob Wyatt's rink edging out Tom Kaged's rink 17-14, giving Romilly a win by 94-31 and a further 14

league points. **SVLA Cup**
ROMILLY 'A' entertained Millwood BC in an SVLA game in weather more in keeping with bowls than the rain of previous weeks.

Romilly began positively and were 22-13 ahead at five ends and were still in command 40-27 at halfway.

By the 15th end the 'Rom' had moved comfortably ahead 59-38, with the rinks of Des Bannister and Bryn Gough well ahead 22-10 and 22-6 respectively, with Tony Freeman's rink just shading Millwood's Tony Williams 17-15, and Bob Wyatt's rink down by six shots to Mike Williams.

Romilly continued their consistency on the rinks of Bannister, Gough and Freeman, all maintaining their form until the end, whereas Bob Wyatt's rink continued to struggle, finally succumbing to a 10 shot defeat 12-22. The final result was 84-60 and a 12-2 Romilly victory.

DR



Glamorgan GEM Sport

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WELSH RUGBY FACING TOUGH TEST WITH THE SPRINGBOKS... AND ALSO ON TRIAL AT HOME

WHEN unfancied, injury-hit Wales run out to face mighty South Africa in Durban on Saturday, they will be hoping that Growthpoint, Kings Park, will prove to be an aptly-named venue for the still developing young squad to show they deserve to be ranked among the elite in world rugby – by claiming a big southern hemisphere scalp at last.

However, though it may be far from mission impossible, the tourists, minus their inspirational skipper Sam Warburton, and other major frontline stars like the metronomic points machine Leigh Halfpenny, know they face a truly herculean task in the first of their two tests on the mini tour.

The statistics and the odds against them are inescapable: the Springboks have triumphed in 25 out of the 27 matches played since they first met 108 years ago, at St Helens, Swansea, on December 1, 1906, when the

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

home side lost 0-11. Altogether, South Africa have amassed a total of 739 points against Wales' 382, averaging about 27 points per match – culminating in the 24-15 win in last year's autumn clash at the Millennium Stadium.

Throughout those long years, successive Wales teams have managed only a 6-6 draw on January 24, 1970 at the National Stadium, Cardiff, and the epic 29-19 victory on November 26, 1999 – amid euphoric scenes at the half-completed new Millennium Stadium (I know, 'cos like Max Boyce, I woz there!)

That momentous day went some way to healing the wounds from the 96-13 horror show in Pretoria, when a mismatched Welsh touring team was humiliated, to the sound of jeers and derision from the home crowd, just one year previously.

For many of the current Welsh squad, memories will still be raw from their last tour to the high veldt when the 2008 Grand Slam side went down 43-17 and 37-21 – so they will not lack extra motivation to finally put the record straight.

Moreover, since then, the gap between Wales and the southern hemisphere giants has been gradually narrowing; and they can also take heart from their acclaimed performance in the 2011 Rugby World Cup in New Zealand, when they stunned the Boks in their group match at Wellington, before finally being edged out by a single point, 17-16.

The Welsh camp know, however, that South Africa on their home turf will be a different proposition – even minus several stars of their own – and that some big guns had been recalled expressly to again batter Wales into submission.

For head coach Warren Gatland, it is another opportunity to test his denuded squad's strength in depth and the young tourists' mettle under fire, with the longer-term objective of next year's Rugby World Cup in mind.

While a clear-cut victory, of course, is the preferred scenario, in the circumstances a highly-competitive display and another cliffhanger would set the reshuffled team up

nicely for the second and final test a week later!

On Tuesday, Wales were looking for inspiration from the tourists' uncapped match at Port Elizabeth with Eastern Province Kings.

Skipped by Dan Lydiate, with James Hook at last with the keys to Number 10 and three new starting caps – Steven Shingler, Jordan Williams and Welsh trialist sensation Matthew Morgan – the latest to join the player drain to Bristol, the team did not disappoint, running in five tries in a morale boosting 34-12 victory, with Hook contributing 14 points.

WRU MEETING

Meanwhile, back home, it is no exaggeration to say that Welsh rugby itself could be on trial in terms of its ability to resolve differences of opinion by open and sensible debate, rather than continue the unseemly war of words.

Hopefully, this will be achieved in Port Talbot on Sunday at the extraordinary general meeting of the Welsh Rugby Union, following calls led by former CEO David Moffett, who has been at the centre of a mystery this week, with reports that he was planning to return home to New Zealand.

Commonwealth Games countdown for Vale athletes

ON July 23, athletes from Commonwealth nations across the world will unite in Glasgow to contest the 256 medal events, across 17 sports at the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

The Vale Council's sports and play development team are looking to use this event to try to inspire more people to become involved in sport and physical activity, whether as a participant, coach or volunteer.

The Vale Council's 'Make It Happen' programme is seeking to use the Commonwealth Games as a tool to raise awareness of the opportunities available in community clubs and organisations across the Vale, as well as promoting community club opportunities via methods such as club taster sessions, and increased information via websites and social media.

They will also be organising a variety of events in the lead up to the games, such as the Dragon Sport hockey festival, the netball league, and the Vale junior G14 festival, which will provide children with the opportunity to participate in Commonwealth sports such as table tennis and badminton.

During these events, the children will be provided information on how

they can take part in these activities within sports clubs and other community provision within their leisure time.

The Vale Schools Para-Games will also take place, which is an athletic-based sports day targeting disabled children aged five to 19 years from across the Vale schools.

With a target of 200 participants, the sports and play development team will work in partnership with National Governing Bodies of Sport to deliver this event which will encourage and inspire more disabled young people to participate in sport.

On July 26, the team will be hosting their free family sports and play fun day.

Taking place on Kings Square and in Central Park, the event will coincide with the opening weekend of the Commonwealth Games, and will give community members the chance to try out a range of sports and play opportunities using the Commonwealth Games as an inspirational theme.

To find out further information regarding sports activities in the Vale, contact the sports and play development team on 01446 704793

'Let the English fund a new Welsh region!' GEM READER OFFERS RUGBY SOLUTION!

THE day after Wales play the Springboks in the first test, Welsh rugby will be involved in what I believe is a waste of time and money, with a Moffett-initiated EGM in Port Talbot.

Mr Moffett had his chance and he walked away mid term with job incomplete and a healthy severance packet to boot, I believe.

What have the current Welsh hierarchy done wrong? They have failed to plough money into the regions irresponsibly, upsetting them, but on the other hand they have made a conscious effort to boost the grassroots game and, as Warren Gatland has pointed out, the success of the national team has required the best people working in the best possible environment with the very best facilities to bring out the best of the talent we have at our disposal.

He stressed to achieve this we have needed the financial and operational support of the WRU and we have been able to rely on that with confidence.

Going back to the regions, it is sad that many of our top players are leaving Wales. Rugby league used to be the arch villain, now it's France and the Premiership. There is no easy solution but how many games do these elite players play for their regions anyway?

When you look at the Ospreys and Cardiff in particular, they just haven't played well enough in many games, inconsistent, even naive on times.

One major issue to be discussed at the EGM is the regrouping of all 147 clubs in Divisions 4/5/6 into 13 new Division 3 leagues, based on geographical criteria, the idea being to address the issue of cost and time spent travelling while also creating more local derbies.

Many club treasurers will be rubbing their

hands in delight, though I am sure there will be factions concerned about possible mismatches. I know back in Pembrokeshire there has been a campaign to return to the old local rivalries with players loyal to their home town clubs and playing week in week out with people they grew up with, and strangely enough creating lasting friendships, something alien in the modern game.

Those who wish to play at a higher level can still try and better themselves in the higher leagues.

Under the new structure, Llantwit Major will play in Div 3 East Central A next season against Barry, Cowbridge, Dinas Powys, Llandaff, Llandaff North, Taffs Well, Canton, St Albans, Old Penarthians, and Caerau Ely.

One idea I would like to hear at an EGM is the prospect of the WRU establishing a fifth region, not at Ponty or north Wales but through a buy-out of

London Welsh. Coach Justin Burnell has said he is looking for 12 to 15 new players.

The WRU could play the Welsh National squad in the Premiership and

Europe, week in week out, and the English Rugby Union would provide £4 million to the running of the club – just a thought!

David Griffiths, Llantwit Major.

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